



## Abstract

Testing order to assess their potential as a proxy for redox conditions the element/Ca ratios of the redox sensitive elements Mn and Fe were determined in tests of benthic foraminifera from the Peruvian oxygen minimum zone (OMZ). Prior to the determination of the element/Ca ratios the distributions of Ca, Mn, Fe, Mg, Ba, Al, Si, P and S in tests of the shallow infaunal species *Uvigerina peregrina* and *Bolivina spissa* were mapped with an electron microprobe (EMP). An Fe rich phase which is also enriched in Al, Si, P and S was found on the inner test surface of *U. peregrina*. The element distributions of a specimen treated with an oxidative cleaning procedure show the absence of this phase. EMP maps of *B. spissa* also identified a similar phase which too could be removed with oxidative cleaning. Neither in *B. spissa* nor in *U. peregrina* were any hints for diagenetic (oxyhydr)oxide or carbonate coatings found. Mn/Ca and Fe/Ca ratios of single specimens of *B. spissa* from different locations have been determined by secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS). Bulk analyses using solution ICP-MS of several samples were compared to the SIMS data. The difference between SIMS analyses on single specimens and ICP-MS bulk analyses from the same sampling sites was 14.0–134.8  $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$  for the Fe/Ca and 1.68  $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$  for the Mn/Ca ratios. This amounts to 3–29 % for the Fe/Ca and 21.5 % for the Mn/Ca ratios of the overall variability between the samples of the different sampling sites. The Mn/Ca ratios in the calcite were generally relatively low (2.21–9.93  $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ ) but of the same magnitude as in the pore waters (1.37–6.67  $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ ). Comparison with sediment pore water data showed that Mn/Ca in the foraminiferal calcite is proportional to the Mn/Ca ratio in the top cm of the pore water. The lowest Fe/Ca ratio in tests of *B. spissa* (87.0  $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ ) has been found at a sampling site which was strongly depleted in oxygen and showed a high, sharp iron peak in the top interval of the pore water. This, and the fact that at this location many dead but no living specimens were found during sampling time, hints that the specimens already were dead before the Fe flux started and the sampling site just recently turned anoxic due to fluctuations of the lower boundary of the OMZ where the sampling site is located (465 m water depth).

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# 1 Introduction

Various element to Ca ratios in foraminiferal calcite have been widely used to reconstruct chemical or physical properties in the ancient ocean. Well established is the temperature reconstruction using the Mg/Ca ratio (Nürnberg et al., 1996; Rosenthal et al., 1997; Hastings et al., 1998; Lea et al., 1999; Elderfield and Ganssen, 2000; Lear et al., 2002). But other proxies are utilized, too like the U/Ca ratio for redox state, seawater chemistry and  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$  tracing (Russel et al., 1994, 2004; Yu et al., 2008), Zn/Ca ratios for carbonate saturation (Marchitto et al., 2000) and Cd/Ca ratios as phosphate tracer (Boyle and Keigwin, 1985; Boyle, 1988; Bertram et al., 1995; Came et al., 2003). Recently a lot attention turned to the analyses of boron isotopes in foraminiferal calcite for pH reconstruction via  $\delta^{11}\text{B}$  (Spivack et al., 1993; Sanyal et al., 1995; Palmer et al., 1998; Pearson and Palmer, 2000; Sanyal et al., 2001; Palmer and Pearson, 2003; Ni et al., 2007; Foster, 2008; Kasemann et al., 2009; Rollion-Bard and Erez, 2010; Rae et al., 2011). The V/Ca ratio has been suggested as a proxy for redox-conditions (Hastings et al., 1996a, b, c) while the Ba/Ca ratio has been shown to occur in direct proportion to seawater concentration (Lea and Boyle, 1991; Lea and Spero, 1992, 1994). Ba/Ca ratios have already been used to trace deglacial meltwater (Hall and Chan, 2004a) and deep and intermediate water mass circulation (Lea and Boyle, 1989, 1990a, b; Martin and Lea, 1998; Hall and Chan; 2004b).

Fossil foraminifera often show diagenetic coatings which strongly influence the measured element/Ca ratios and thus rigorous cleaning techniques have to be deployed. About three decades ago a procedure to remove these contaminants by rinsing crushed tests with distilled water/methanol to remove adhesive clays followed by a reductive cleaning step to remove metal oxide coatings has been developed (Boyle, 1981). Later a procedure was developed to get rid of organic contaminations by using an additional oxidative cleaning step (Boyle and Keigwin, 1985). The influence of the different cleaning steps on the Mg/Ca ratios has been tested and it has been shown that the clay removal step is the most important one while the reductive cleaning step

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microanalytic methods, which allow analysing single specimens locally, have been deployed. The advantage of the EMP is that single foraminiferal tests can be analysed with comparable low damage at the surface after preparation of polished sections. These sections can be remeasured after renewed grinding and polishing. This is an important prerequisite for comparison with other low trace methods like secondary ion mass spectrometry (SIMS). Both elemental mapping by means of EMP and spot analyses of test calcite can help identify contaminant coatings and can characterise the distributions of trace elements inside the foraminiferal calcite, improving the usability of element to Ca ratios as paleoenvironmental proxies (Nürnberg, 1995; Nürnberg et al., 1996; Eggins et al., 2003, 2004; Sadekov, 2005; Toyofoko and Kitazato, 2005; Pena et al., 2008). Also laser ablation techniques on single foraminifera have been used in the recent past (Wu and Hillaire-Marcel, 1995; Hathorne et al., 2003; Reichart et al., 2003; Pena, 2005; Munsell et al., 2010).

A second valuable tool for foraminiferal microanalyses is SIMS. With good sample preservation after analysis in the same way as the EMP, SIMS has been used to produce element mappings and determine element/Ca ratios in foraminiferal calcite (Allison and Austin, 2003; Sano et al., 2005; Bice et al., 2005; Kunioka et al., 2006) as well as analyses of  $\delta^{11}\text{B}$  in single foraminifera (Kasemann et al., 2008; Rollion-Bard and Erez, 2009) and the determination of intratest variability of  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  (Rollion-Bard et al., 2008). Other powerful, though less widely available techniques like particle induced x-ray emission (Gehlen et al., 2004) or  $\mu$ -synchrotron XRF (Munsell et al., 2010) have also been employed in foraminifera studies. All these microanalytical techniques have in common that analyses could be deployed even on single foraminiferal specimens whereas wet chemical analyses typically require 20–50 specimens of smaller foraminiferal species; obviously microanalytical methods are favourable when there is only a very limited number of specimens available or when an assessment of chemical heterogeneity is required.

In this study the shallow infaunal species *Bolivina spissa* is used for the determination of Fe/Ca and Mn/Ca ratios, measured with SIMS and ICP-MS, and the comparison

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## 10 2 Material and methods

### 2.1 Sampling procedure

Six short (12–26 cm) sediment cores from the Peruvian OMZ were considered for the present study (Table 1). The cores were recovered by using multicore technology during R/V *Meteor* cruise M77/1 in October and November 2008. Within a couple 15 of minutes after the multicorer came on deck, one tube was chosen from the array, and brought to a laboratory having a constant room temperature of 4 °C. Supernatant water of the core was carefully removed. Then the core was gently pushed out of the multicorer tube and cut into 10-mm-thick slices for benthic foraminiferal analysis.

The samples were transferred to Whirl-Pak<sup>TM</sup> plastic bags and transported at a temperature of 4 °C. One core was completely frozen, and later sliced and sub-sampled 20 at IFM-GEOMAR, Kiel. The samples from these five cores were used to collect the foraminiferal specimens for the analysis.

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## 2.2 Foraminiferal studies

The surface sediment samples corresponding to the top centimeter were washed over a 63 µm mesh sieve. The residues were collected in ethanol to prevent samples from dissolution and dried at 50 °C. They were further subdivided into the grain-size fractions of 63–125, 125–250, 250–315, 315–355, 355–400, and >400 µm. Specimens of the shallow infaunal species *B. spissa* for ICP-MS and SIMS analysis were picked from the 125–250 µm fraction, specimens of *Uvigerina peregrina* for the microprobe analyses were picked from the 355–400 µm fraction.

## 2.3 Cleaning methods

For each ICP-MS analysis a bulk sample of 40 specimens of *B. spissa* was used. The tests were gently crushed between two glass plates. The test fragments were transferred into PE vials and rinsed three times with reverse osmosis water (ROW) having a conductivity of 0.055 µS cm<sup>-1</sup> (Elga<sup>TM</sup> PURELAB Ultra). After each rinsing step the vials were put into a ultrasonic bath for 20 s. Afterwards the vials were rinsed three times with methanol and put into the supersonic bath for 1 min after each rinsing step. The vials were rinsed again two times with ROW to remove residual methanol. An oxidative reagent was freshly mixed by adding 100 µl 30 % H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> to 10 ml of a 0.1M NaOH (p.a., Roth<sup>TM</sup>) solution. Subsequently 350 µl of this reagent were added to each vial. The vials were put into a waterbath at 92 °C for 20 min. After another 20 s in the supersonic bath the vials were rinsed two times with ROW to remove residues of the oxidative reagent. The test fragments were transferred into clean vials with a pipette. Into each vial 250 µl 0.001M HNO<sub>3</sub> (suprapure, Roth<sup>TM</sup>) were added. The vials were put into the ultrasonic bath for 20 s. The extremely low acidic solution was removed and the vials were rinsed three times with ROW. The samples were dissolved in 300 µl 0.075M HNO<sub>3</sub> (suprapure, Roth<sup>TM</sup>), centrifuged and transferred into clean vials. Due to the risk of elevated Mn blanks the vials were replaced by Teflon beakers for Mn

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analyses (except for the cleaning step with 0.001M HNO<sub>3</sub> (suprapure, Merck<sup>TM</sup>), the sample dissolution and the centrifugation). The cleaning procedure for the microanalyses was in general the same with a few exceptions. The specimens were not crushed and one vial was used for one single specimen. The first three rinsing steps with ROW 5 were skipped because specimens often lifted to the surface and got lost during the rinsing steps. The specimens were not transferred into a clean vial after the oxidative cleaning step and were not dissolved. After the last cleaning step the specimens were individual collected over a 125 µm mesh stainless steel sieve.

### 2.4 Microdrilling of the Oka calcite grain

10 A matrix matched reference material was required in order to quantify SIMS trace element analyses. Using a New Wave Research<sup>TM</sup> micromill a square having a 400 µm and 200 µm thickness was extracted from a calcite crystal from the OKA carbonatite complex for which Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca ratios have been reported by Gaetani and Cohen (2006). The resulting powder was collected in a Teflon beaker and dissolved in 15 2% HNO<sub>3</sub>. A polished piece from the same OKA calcite crystal was subsequently used in this study as reference material for SIMS after Mn/Ca and Fe/Ca ratios were determined by solution ICP-MS on the micromilled powder.

### 2.5 Preparation of crosssections for SIMS and microprobe analyses

The crosssection of the *U. peregrina* specimen shown in Fig. 1 was prepared at the 20 Alfred-Wegener-Institute Bremerhaven. The specimen was embedded in Araldite<sup>TM</sup> epoxy resin under vacuum inside a stainless steel chamber. Afterwards the chamber was set under pressure to eliminate any voids inside the resin after which the resin was hardened at 60 °C. The resin was ground down with alumo-silica grinding paper until the centre of the specimen was exposed. Subsequently the surface was polished using a silk cloth and 3 µm diamond suspension followed by a final polishing step using 0.3 µm 25

$\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  suspension. After each polishing step the surface was cleaned in a supersonic bath for a few seconds.

All other cross-sections were prepared at the IFM-Geomar in Kiel. The *U. peregrina* specimens shown in Figs. 2 and 3 were embedded in epoxy resin under laboratory atmosphere. Afterwards they were ground by hand using alumo-silica grinding paper until the chambers were opened. Because the chambers were not filled with resin small drops of resin were used to fill the inner part of the chambers. The surface was then polished by hand with 5  $\mu\text{m}$  diamond paste followed by 1  $\mu\text{m}$  alumo-silica paste using a rotating polishing plate. After each polishing step the surface of the sample mount was cleaned in an ultrasonic bath for several seconds. All other specimens including 5 all specimens of *B. spissa* were embedded under vacuum into Araldite<sup>TM</sup> epoxy resin using the CitoVac<sup>TM</sup> vacuum embedding system by Struehrs<sup>TM</sup>. The resin was ground down with alumo-silica grinding paper with the Tegra-Pol-21 system by Struehrs<sup>TM</sup> until the centre of the specimen was fully exposed. Afterwards the surface was polished 10 with different grain sizes of alumo-silica and diamond paste until 1  $\mu\text{m}$  grain size. After each polishing step the surface was cleaned in an ultrasonic bath for several seconds. 15

## 2.6 Electron microprobe mapping

A JEOL JXA 8200 electron microprobe was used to generate element distribution maps for Ca, Mn, Fe, Mg, Ba, Al, Si, S and P within cross-sections of benthic foraminiferal 20 test walls. Each cross-section was carbon coated before the measurements. The microprobe was operated in a wavelength dispersive mode by using different  $\text{K}\alpha$  X-ray lines for each element. Up to five spectrometers could be used to measure up to five elements simultaneously. The different spectrometer crystals which were used for the different elements are listed in Table 2. An acceleration voltage of 15 kV and a beam 25 current of 20 nA was used. The selected areas were mapped by using a step size of 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  and a dwell time of 500 ms. Results are illustrated as maps of relative measured

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intensities for the different elements. The JEOL JXA 8200 was also used to generate the secondary electron images of the foraminiferal cross-sections.

## 2.7 SIMS analyses

The Mn/Ca and Fe/Ca ratio analyses in test cross-sections of *B. spissa* were performed using a Cameca ims 6f magnetic sector ion microprobe at the Helmholtz Centre Potsdam. Each cross-section was ultrasonically cleaned twice in high purity ethanol prior to coating with a 35 nm thick, high purity gold coat.

Analyses used a 200 pA, nominally 12.5 kV, mass filtered  $^{16}\text{O}^-$  ion-beam which was focused to a diameter of circa 4  $\mu\text{m}$  on the sample surface (Fig. 9). Prior to each analysis the analytical location was presputtered for 300 s with the beam rastered over  $10 \times 10 \mu\text{m}$  raster followed by a second 3 min preburn with a static beam. During the first presputtering the  $^{40}\text{Ca}^+$  distribution was monitored using the dynamic ion imaging system of the instrument in order to improve the beam targeting on the thin walls of the test being investigated.

The mass spectrometer of the SIMS was operated at a mass resolution  $M/\Delta M \approx 6000$ , which is required in order to separate the  $^{55}\text{Mn}$  peak from the isobaric  $^{54}\text{Fe}^1\text{H}$  molecule. A 150  $\mu\text{m}$  contrast aperture was used in conjunction with a 750  $\mu\text{m}$  field aperture (equivalent to a 60  $\mu\text{m}$  diameter field of view); no energy offset was employed and a 50 V wide energy window was used. A single analyses consisted of 30 scans of the sequence 39.95 Da (0.1 s per cycle, used during the spot preburn),  $^{40}\text{Ca}$  (2 s),  $^{55}\text{Mn}$  (10 s),  $^{56}\text{Fe}$  (4 s) and  $^{63}\text{Cu}$  (4 s), resulting in a total data acquisition time of roughly 10 min.

The OKA calcite was used as a reference material to convert the observed Mn/Ca and Fe/Ca count rate ratios into  $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$  concentration values. It was analysed a total of  $n = 14$  times during our July 2010 analytical session, yielding a 1 sd repeatability of 1.5 % for the observed Mn/Ca, 14.8 % for Fe/Ca and 23.2 % for Cu/Ca ratios.

The test walls of *B. spissa* are generally quite thin (about 10–20  $\mu\text{m}$  thickness). The test is perforated; however the pores with a diameter of about 6  $\mu\text{m}$  are relatively big

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All pore-water data, discussed in this work are taken from Scholz et al. (2011).

## 3 Results

### 3.1 EMP mappings of *U. peregrina* tests

5 Several trace element distribution maps on unclean tests of *U. peregrina* and the associated SEM pictures are shown in Figs. 1–3. Strong Mg-bends which are typical for the primary calcite in tests of bilaminated calcitic foraminifera can be seen nicely in Fig. 1. The inner parts of the wall are highly enriched in iron. A slight iron enrichment is also present in the pores. The iron rich phase at the inner surfaces of the wall further-  
10 more is enriched in Al, Si, P and S (Figs. 2 and 3) which hints towards a presence of alumo-silicates (clays) and organic matter. There are muddy accumulations present inside the chambers. These accumulations differ in their chemical composition from the iron rich phase at the inner parts of the wall (less Fe and Ca, more S and P) (Fig. 2). The chemical composition of two cuts directly through layers of this iron rich phase is  
15 shown in Fig. 3. The element mapping shows nicely the transition from the calcitic test walls into this iron rich phase. A trace element distribution map in a test section of an *U. peregrina* specimen treated with an oxidative cleaning is shown in Fig. 4. In contrast to the element maps of the unclean specimens this specimen does not show an iron rich phase attached to the inner surface of the test.

### 20 3.2 EMP mappings of *B. spissa* tests

Several trace element distribution maps on tests of *B. spissa* are shown in Figs. 5–7. Maps are shown for unclean (Fig. 5) and cleaned specimens (Figs. 6 and 7). In contrast to *U. peregrina* *B. spissa* does not show Mg-bands in the test walls. The inner parts of the test wall of the unclean specimen (Fig. 5) are enriched in Fe and

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also the inner part of the test wall shows a Fe rich spot. These Fe rich phases are absent in the specimens which have been treated with an oxidative cleaning procedure (Figs. 6 and 7) except in a pore of the specimen from 465 m water depth (Fig. 7). All Ca distributions show strongly heterogenous patterns. These patterns can be recognized on secondary-electron (SE) and backscattered-electron (BSE) images, too (Fig. 8). These images have been made after the mappings. The BSE images show that these structures look like some kind of porous bands in the test walls where the Ca maps show higher count rates.

### 3.3 Redox sensitive elements in tests of *B. spissa*

10 The measured Mn/Ca and Fe/Ca ratios for the Ecrm752, a limestone prepared under laboratory conditions (Greaves et al., 2008), the OKA calcite grain and the tests of *B. spissa* are listed in Table 5 (ICP-MS), Table 6 (SIMS) and Table 7 (mean SIMS). The Ecrm752 solution was used as internal reference standard for the ICP-MS analyses (mean Mn/Ca = 139.30  $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ ; mean Fe/Ca = 155.28  $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ ). Element ratios 15 for the Ecrm752 showed a sufficiently high reproducibility with standard deviations of 4.02  $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$  (Mn/Ca) and 5.18  $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$  (Fe/Ca) between the different measurements. The Mn/Ca and Fe/Ca ratios for the Ecrm752 have also been determined in an inter laboratory calibration study (Greaves et al., 2008). The data presented in our 20 study are in accordance to the values reported for the not centrifuged Ecrm752 where the Mn/Ca ratio ranged from 121–147  $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$  and the Fe/Ca ratio ranged from 97–220  $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$  between the different laboratories. The mean element ratios for the Oka calcite grain which was used as cross calibration standard for the SIMS analyses was also determined with ICP-MS (mean Mn/Ca = 4930.33  $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ ; mean Fe/Ca = 541.33  $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ ).

25 The Mn/Ca and Fe/Ca ratios in tests of *B. spissa* are shown in Fig. 10. The mean ratios from the SIMS spot analyses for single specimens are plotted as well as the ratios from ICP-MS analyses on bulk solutions of several specimens. The ratios of the bulk samples compared to the microanalyses agree in a maximal differences of

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3–29 % compared to the overall data range between the different sampling sites, although the Mn/Ca ratio from the bulk analysis is a bit elevated compared to the microanalysis result ( $3.8 \mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$  compared to  $2.12 \mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ ). The Mn/Ca ratios range from  $2.12\text{--}9.93 \mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$  and thus are in general quite low. This falls far below the generally accepted level of test Mn/Ca to prove the absence of diagenetic coatings from  $50 \mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$  to  $>150 \mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$  (Boyle, 1983; Boyle and Keigwin, 1985, 1986; Delaney, 1990; Ohkouchi et al., 1994). The corresponding Fe/Ca ratios range from  $86.99\text{--}551.82 \mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ . Both element ratios show an increasing trend towards deeper water depths and higher bottom water oxygenation. The standard deviations between the different SIMS spots on single specimens are generally higher among the specimens from the deeper and better oxygenated sampling locations, too. They range from  $0.37\text{--}5.91 \mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$  for the Mn/Ca and from  $23.06\text{--}392.98 \mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$  for the Fe/Ca ratio. The Mn/Ca and Fe/Ca ratio for an uncleared specimen of *B. spissa* is also shown in Fig. 10 indicated by a green diamond. Compared to a specimen from the same sampling site treated with oxidative cleaning it shows an elevated Fe/Ca ratio and a slightly reduced Mn/Ca ratio.

### 3.4 Comparison to pore-water data

The correlation between Mn/Ca ratios in the top cm of the pore water and Mn/Ca in tests of *B. spissa* from the same sampling locations are shown in Fig. 12. The Mn/Ca ratios in *B. spissa* are generally higher at locations where Mn/Ca ratios are higher in the pore-waters.

The Fe concentrations among the pore water profiles of three sampling locations are shown in Fig. 11. The core from the shallowest most oxygen depleted sampling site shows a sharp Fe peak with high Fe concentrations in the top 2 cm of the pore waters. In contrast to this profile the Fe/Ca ratios in tests of *B. spissa* from this location are the lowest found among all samples. The Fe concentration in the pore waters from the deeper sampling locations show a more typical behaviour with increasing concentrations at sediment depths where the Fe reduction starts.

## 4 Discussion

### 4.1 Chemical test composition of *U. peregrina*

The trace element mappings of *U. peregrina* cross-sections show an iron rich phase which is strongly enriched in different elements. This phase seems to be similar like 5 “coatings” which have been found in the inner chamber walls of *Globigerinoides ruber* (Gehlen et al., 2004). Since this phase is removed after an oxidative cleaning without a reductive cleaning step it is unreasonable that it represents an (oxyhydr)oxide coating. Also the low Mn content shows that it does not consist of manganese carbonate. It has more chemical similarity with cements in tests of several agglutinated foraminifera and 10 the test walls of several allogromiids show a similar chemical composition (Bertram and Cowen, 1998; Gooday et al., 2008).

Elevated Fe concentrations inside the pores also show the presence of the Fe rich lining. Thus in microanalytical techniques like EMP, SIMS or LA-ICP-MS it should be avoided to measure at the porous parts of the test walls, because the inner organic 15 lining, also present in the test pores, shows, partly due to the presence of clay particles, strongly elevated concentrations in several elements, even Mg. Furthermore it should be avoided to measure at the inner test surface and inside the chambers themselves because of the presence of the Fe rich lining and the muddy accumulations inside the chambers.

20 The element mappings show no hints for ferro-manganese-oxide coatings which is most probably related to the highly reducing conditions in the pore waters at the OMZ off Peru. At least for recent samples a reductive cleaning for chemical analyses seems to be not necessarily required. The comparison of the uncleared specimens with a specimen treated with an oxidative cleaning shows that the oxidative cleaning removes 25 the contaminant Fe rich phase at the inner surface of the test walls. This hints again that this phase represents more the inner organic lining of the test than a diagenetic coating. Also it proofs the value of the oxidative cleaning for the minimization of contaminations inside foraminiferal tests.

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## 4.2 Chemical composition of *B. spissa* tests

An iron rich phase present in the uncleared specimens of *U. peregrina* and *B. spissa* seems to be absent in specimens of *B. spissa* treated with an oxidative cleaning procedure. To minimize contaminations during the microanalysis of foraminiferal tests it is absolutely necessary to use an oxidative cleaning step during sample preparation. But even after intense oxidative cleaning there are still contaminations left inside the test pores. Thus it should be avoided to measure parts of the tests where pores are present. This might be especially complicated during the analyses of foraminifera with a high pore-density with laser ablation due to the spot diameter (50–80 µm) required for low concentration measurements on Q-ICP-MS. Nevertheless the test walls seem to be contamination free after the oxidative cleaning where no pores are present. The element/Ca ratios measured with SIMS in the tests of the cleaned *B. spissa* specimens should therefore represent the element/Ca ratios of the test calcite. This might be more complicated during the presence of diagenetic oxyhydroxide or Mn carbonate coatings. In this case EMP mappings should be used as pre-investigation to locate these coatings and for identification of the measurement spots in the contamination free areas. Additionally the effectivity of a reductive cleaning treatment could be analysed by EMP mapping by comparing cleaned and uncleared specimens.

The strong Mg-bends present in *U. peregrina* are not visible in *B. spissa*. This might be explained by the fact that bolivinidae construct their tests in a monolamellar concept without a second phase of calcite between the different layers (Sliter, 1974).

Still enigmatic remain the heterogeneous patterns in Ca distribution. The Ca count rates are higher where these holey structures are visible in the BSE images. This appears to be puzzling because in this case the Ca concentration would be higher at spots of low density. Thus it is probable that the higher Ca count rates in the holey structures are rather artifacts due to topography related analytical problems with. It seems likely that the high energetic X-ray beam pitted the surface of the sample by burning more volatile parts of the test wall.

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## 4.3 Redox sensitive elements in pore waters and *B. spissa*

### 4.3.1 Mn/Ca ratios

Reductive dissolution of reactive Mn (oxyhydr)oxides in the surface sediments drive the Mn flux across the benthic boundary (Froelich et al., 1987; Burdige et al., 1993; Pakhomo et al., 2007; Noffke et al., 2011; Scholz et al., 2011). The Mn concentrations and thus the Mn/Ca ratios are relatively low in the pore waters from the OMZ off Peru since most of the Mn delivered to the OMZ is already reduced in the water column (Böning et al., 2004; Scholz et al., 2011). The Mn/Ca ratios in tests of *B. spissa* and the Mn concentrations in the top cm of the pore waters are generally relatively low and show an increasing trend with higher bottom water oxygenation. At a first glance these results appear to be confusing because usually solid MnO<sub>2</sub> is rapidly reduced to soluble Mn<sup>2+</sup> in oxygen depleted pore waters. Thus it is expectable that Mn concentrations are elevated in the top pore water interval when bottom water oxygen is depleted. Indeed the permanently anoxic OMZ off Peru causes MnO<sub>2</sub> reduction to occur already in the water column, and hence only minor amounts of particulate bound Mn arrive at the seafloor (Böning et al., 2004). Even if the pore water conditions are highly reducing only little Mn can be mobilised due to the absence of particulate MnO<sub>2</sub>. At deeper water depths below the OMZ the oxygen concentration starts to rise again and soluble Mn<sup>2+</sup> can be oxygenated to MnO<sub>2</sub> which again settles down to the seafloor. Thus at the deeper sampling locations the Mn concentrations in the top pore water intervals can be higher due to the higher reservoir in particulate MnO<sub>2</sub> although (or in this case because) the bottom water oxygen concentrations are higher. As already mentioned even the Mn/Ca ratios in *B. spissa* reflect these conditions. These results can be used to interpret downcore profiles of Mn/Ca ratios in benthic foraminifera from the Peruvian OMZ. Elevated Mn/Ca ratios would hint to higher oxygen concentrations during this time due to a higher MnO<sub>2</sub> flux to the ground.

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The Mn/Ca and the Fe/Ca ratios both obviously show a higher variability in tests of *B. spissa* from habitats with elevated  $[O_2]_{BW}$ . Infaunal foraminiferal species are able to migrate vertically in the sediments to where food availability and oxygenation meet their individual requirements (Jorissen et al., 1995; Duijnsteene, 2003). At higher

<sup>5</sup>  $[O_2]_{BW}$  and thus a deeper oxygen penetration depth *B. spissa* might be able to migrate deeper into the sediments. In this case individual specimens would be exposed to a wide range of Mn and Fe concentrations in the pore waters among their lifetime. The comparison between the cleaned and the uncleared specimen from 640 m water depth (M77-1-565/MUC-60) shows that the uncleared specimen has an elevated Fe/Ca and a slightly reduced Mn/Ca ratio. The elevated Fe/Ca ratio originates most probably from the contamination of that Fe rich phase which could be seen on EMP mappings of the uncleared *B. spissa* and *U. peregrina* specimens. The slightly lower Mn/Ca ratio might be more a variability in the lattice bound Mn concentrations between different specimens.

### 4.3.2 Fe/Ca ratios and comparison to pore waters

The Fe pore water profiles show more typical concentration levels as compared to Mn. However, the interpretation of the Fe/Ca ratios in *B. spissa* is complex in this regard because they appear to contradict the trend of the pore water concentrations: the lowest foraminiferal Fe/Ca ratios were found at 465 m water depth, a location with a strong sharp Fe peak in the pore water next to the sediment surface. Note, no living specimens of *B. spissa* were found at this location during sampling time although a very high amount of dead tests was present. At the two other sampling locations where pore water profiles are available (579 and 928 m water depth) living specimens of *B. spissa* could be found during sampling time (Mallon et al., 2011). In the centre of the OMZ *B. spissa* is completely absent (Glock et al., 2011). This suggests that *B. spissa* needs at least trace amounts of oxygen to survive or enough nitrate for denitrification.

A likely scenario, which can explain all observations and facts outlined above is that the habitat only recently turned anoxic causing the death of high numbers of *B.*

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*spissa*. The subsurface peak of Fe is likely the result of enhanced Fe-reduction, which formed after a phase of oxygenation and enhanced deposition and/or precipitation of Fe-(oxyhydr)oxides at the sediment surface (Scholz et al., 2011). The sampling site at 465 m water depth is located at the lower boundary of the Peruvian OMZ where 5 ingress of oxygenated water masses occurs episodically. Overall, this means that the Fe mobilisation in the pore waters most likely started only after their death so that the Fe could not be incorporated into the test calcite anymore. Also the habitat either experienced a long phase of oxygenation short time before or these phases have to occur periodically over, because high amounts of dead *B. spissa* have been found in 10 the top 3 cm of the sediment. These phases of oxygenation have to be at least long enough for *B. spissa* to survive and build up relative big sociations.

Some iron pore water profiles from different water depth at 11° S (taken from Scholz et al., 2011) are shown in Fig. 13. The shallowest sampling site at the lower boundary of the OMZ (85 m) shows relatively high Fe concentrations in the pore water which 15 might be partly due to an increased supply of detrital (oxyhydr)oxides from the continent (Suits and Arthur, 2000; Scholz et al., 2011). Very likely another portion of iron supply at this station has been delivered through lateral transport in the water column from deeper sediments in the center of the OMZ and the dissolved Fe is re-oxidized and deposited at the shallower shelf in times of shelf oxygenation. This Fe pool is reduced 20 again when anoxic conditions re-establish and leads to the relatively high pore-water concentrations compared to the stations in the center of the OMZ (Noffke et al., 2011; Scholz et al., 2011). The pore water profiles in the permanent anoxic part of the OMZ (319 m, 410 m) show relatively low Fe concentrations while the peak at 465 m water depth again is similar to this one at 85 m although it is not distinctive. It might be that 25 dissolved Fe has been delivered here by lateral transport in the water column from sediments at the centre of the OMZ. In this case as already mentioned oxygen supply from the deeper water masses might have lead to re-oxygenation of the dissolved iron. The new formed (oxyhydr)oxides are reduced again when anoxic conditions re-establish at this sampling site which again leads to these relatively high Fe concentrations in the

shallow pore-water. The trend of the higher pore water concentrations with increasing water depth at the deeper stations (579 m, 928 m) reflects the transition from sulphate reduction to iron reduction. This trend is reflected by the Fe/Ca ratios in *B. spissa*, too.

## 5 Conclusions

5 An iron rich phase has been found at the inner surface of the test walls and also in the pores of several specimens of *U. peregrina*. This phase also is enriched in Al, Si, P and S and it could be efficiently removed from the walls with an oxidative cleaning procedure. A similar phase enriched in Fe could be removed from the inner parts of the test walls of *B. spissa* with oxidative cleaning, too. Nevertheless, even after the 10 oxidative cleaning Fe was still enriched in the pores. Thus an oxidative cleaning procedure is essential to minimize the influences of non-lattice bound signatures during the determination of element/Ca ratios even for microanalytical methods. Furthermore it should be avoided to measure at parts of the test wall where pores are present. None of the EMP maps shows any hint for diagenetic coatings. Therefore a reductive cleaning 15 for the determination of element/Ca ratios was not necessary. For minimisation of the whole procedure blank and the loss of sample material it is a good choice to avoid unnecessary cleaning steps.

A comparison of Fe/Ca and Mn/Ca ratios in tests of *B. spissa* determined with SIMS and ICP-MS showed that the results of these two techniques agree in a maximal differences of 3–29 % compared to the overall data range between the different sampling sites. The low Mn/Ca ratios are in the same magnitude as in the pore waters. The low 20 Mn concentrations in the pore waters originate most probably from the strong oxygen depletion in the water column of the Peruvian OMZ. Most MnO<sub>2</sub> is already reduced in the water column and does not settle down to the sediments. The Mn/Ca ratios in *B. spissa* correlate with the Mn/Ca ratio in the top cm of the pore water. Thus Mn/Ca ratios 25 in benthic foraminifera from the Peruvian OMZ could be used to trace the amount of oxygen depletion in the OMZ. In downcore proxy application higher Mn/Ca ratios would

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indicate a better oxygenation because more  $\text{MnO}_2$  settles down to the seafloor, being remobilised in the pore waters. Several observations at a strongly oxygen depleted location, like low Fe/Ca ratios in *B. spissa*, a strong sharp Fe peak in the top interval of the pore water and the presence of a high amount of dead but no living specimens of

5 *B. spissa*, hint that this site just recently turned anoxic. Therefore the Fe flux out of the sediment started after the death of *B. spissa* at this site. The sharp peak also might hint that ironoxides, that precipitated in a period of higher oxygen supply, just started to get remobilised when the sediment turned anoxic again.

The fact that the Fe/Ca ratios in *B. spissa* reflect not always the pore water conditions  
10 might complicate approaches in paleoreconstruction in contrast to the Mn/Ca ratios which seem to be a very promising tool. Nevertheless, future downcore studies will show the value of these proxies in paleoreconstruction.

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**Table 1.** Sampling sites.  $[O_2]_{BW}$  taken from Glock et al. (2011).

Site	Longitude (W)	Latitude (S)	Water depth (m)	$[O_2]_{BW}$ ( $\mu\text{mol l}^{-1}$ )
M77/1-421/MUC-13	75°34.82'	15°11.38'	519	–
M77/1-455/MUC-21	78°19.23'	11°00.00'	465	2.42
M77/1-487/MUC-39	78°23.17'	11°00.00'	579	3.7
M77/1-565/MUC-60	78°21.40'	11°08.00'	640	8.17
M77/1-604/MUC-74	78°22.42'	11°17.96'	878	34.23
M77/1-445/MUC-15	78°30.02'	11°00.00'	928	36.77

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**Table 2.** Spectrometer crystals used at the EMP for different elements.

Element	Crystal	Element	Crystal	Element	Crystal
Ca	PETJ	Ba	PETJ	S	PETH
Mg	TAPH	Mn	LIFH	Si	TAP
Fe	LIFH	P	PETH	Al	TAPH

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**Table 3.** Operation conditions for Agilent 7500cx.

	value/description
RF power	1500 W
Nebulizer	PFA (100 $\mu\text{l min}^{-1}$ , self aspirating)
Spray chamber	Glass (cooled to 2 °C)
Autosampler	Cetac ASX 100
Uptake rate ( $\mu\text{l min}^{-1}$ )	100
Washout time (s)	90
Uptake time (s)	30
Argon plasma gas flow rate ( $\text{l min}^{-1}$ )	15
Argon auxiliary gas flow rate ( $\text{l min}^{-1}$ )	0.2–0.3
Argon nebulizer gas flow rate ( $\text{l min}^{-1}$ )	0.8–0.9
Sample cone	Nickel (Agilent)
Skimmer cone	Nickel
CeO/Ce and $\text{Ba}^{2+}/\text{Ba}^+$ ratios	<2.5 %

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**Table 4.** Element concentration for the different standard rows used for ICP-MS.

Standard	Ca (ppm)	Fe (ppt)	Mn (ppt)
Row 1 std 1	10	150	5
Row 1 std 2	10	250	10
Row 1 std 3	10	500	15
Row 1 std 4	10	1000	50
Row 1 std 5	10	3000	100
Row 1 std 6	10	5000	150
Row 2 std 1	10	0	10 000
Row 2 std 2	10	0	20 000
Row 2 std 3	10	0	50 000
Row 2 std 4	10	0	75 000
Row 2 std 5	10	0	100 000
Row 3 std 1	10	0	0
Row 3 std 2	50	0	0
Row 3 std 3	100	0	0
Row 3 std 4	200	0	0

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**Table 5.** Element/Ca ratios for different samples determined by ICP-MS.

Material	Mn/Ca ( $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ )	$1\sigma$ ( $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ )	Fe/Ca ( $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ )	$1\sigma$ ( $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ )
Ecrm752	148.30	10.7	150.1	9.8
Ecrm752	138.20	2.8	150.1	8.0
Ecrm752	137.70	2.1	150.3	7.9
Ecrm752	137.80	1.5	157.3	3.5
Ecrm752	138.30	1.4	157.1	4.5
Ecrm752	138.30	3.7	159.0	5.1
Ecrm752	136.50	1.7	163.1	1.4
Oka	4942.00	57.8	547.7	10.3
Oka	4875.60	181.4	523.1	12.8
Oka	4973.40	54.7	553.2	5.5
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-455/MUC-21	3.80	0.06	87.0	3.2
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-487/MUC-38			142.0	3.1
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-487/MUC-38			157.5	2.1
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-565/MUC-60			160.6	3.2
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-565/MUC-60			138.1	2.9

**Table 6.** Element/Ca ratios of foraminiferal calcite determined by SIMS.

Material	Mn/Ca ( $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ )	$1\sigma$ ( $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ )	Fe/Ca ( $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ )	$1\sigma$ ( $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ )
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-455/MUC-21	1.679	0.53	108.240	9.7
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-455/MUC-21	2.322	0.60	66.860	8.7
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-455/MUC-21	2.021	0.61	117.246	10.1
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-455/MUC-21	2.463	0.64	111.629	10.2
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-487/MUC-38a	5.710	1.01	82.350	8.7
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-487/MUC-38a	5.148	0.94	184.964	12.6
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-487/MUC-38b	3.482	0.76	227.701	14.3
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-487/MUC-38b	6.476	1.02	218.407	14.5
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-487/MUC-38b	7.463	1.18	119.215	10.7
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-565/MUC-60a	2.823	0.69	48.749	6.1
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-565/MUC-60a	4.441	0.81	84.088	6.2
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-565/MUC-60a	6.198	0.92	164.134	12.3
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-565/MUC-60a	5.610	0.88	78.611	8.3
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-565/MUC-60b	2.311	0.58	180.360	12.1
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-565/MUC-60b	3.510	0.76	269.790	16.1
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-565/MUC-60b	2.759	0.62	423.180	18.5
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-565/MUC-60b	3.008	0.63	218.280	12.7
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-604/MUC-74	5.293	0.89	216.820	13.2
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-604/MUC-74	16.590	2.85	984.400	78.8
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-445/MUC-15	9.967	1.23	420.510	21.7
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-445/MUC-15	5.567	1.04	853.450	30.0
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-445/MUC-15	3.142	0.72	72.129	8.3
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-445/MUC-15	8.019	1.17	805.800	91.9

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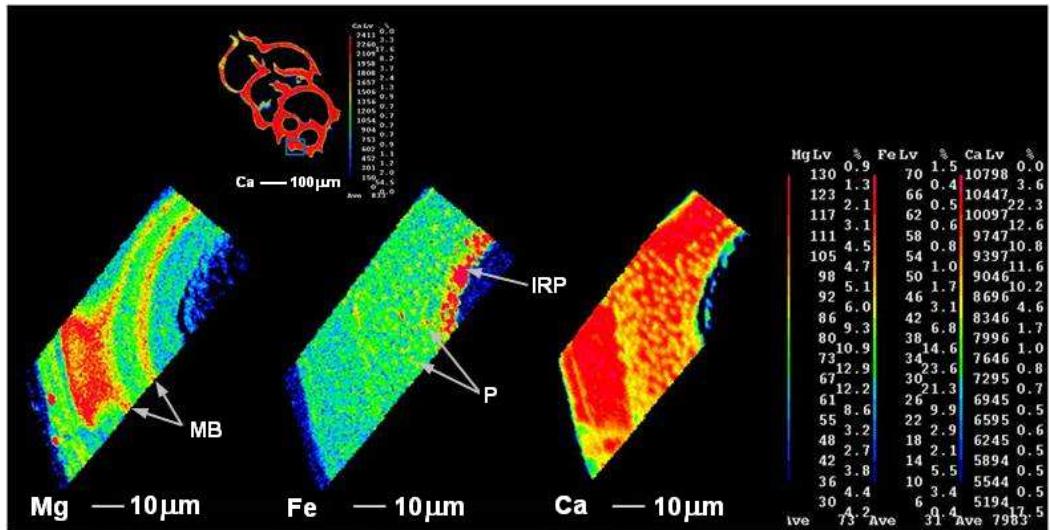
**Table 7.** Mean element/Ca ratios in tests of single *B. spissa* specimens determined with SIMS.

Material	Mn/Ca ( $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ )	$1\sigma$ ( $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ )	Fe/Ca ( $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ )	$1\sigma$ ( $\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ )
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-455/MUC-21	2.121	0.347	100.990	23.057
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-487/MUC-38a	5.148		184.960	
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-487/MUC-38b	5.807	2.073	188.440	60.131
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-565/MUC-60a	4.771	1.484	93.896	49.334
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-565/MUC-60b	2.897	0.500	272.900	106.680
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-604/MUC-74	9.933	5.912	551.820	392.980
<i>B. spissa</i> M77-1-445/MUC-15	6.674	2.964	537.970	366.090

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**Fig. 1.** EMP elemental mappings for an *Uvigerina peregrina* specimen from 519 m water depth (M77-1-421/MUC-13) on an exposed section of the foraminiferal test. Distribution of Ca, Mg and Fe in the foraminiferal test. All intensity values are expressed in counts per second (cps) as shown in the color bars. MB: Mg bands IRP: Fe rich phase at inner test surface and pores (P).

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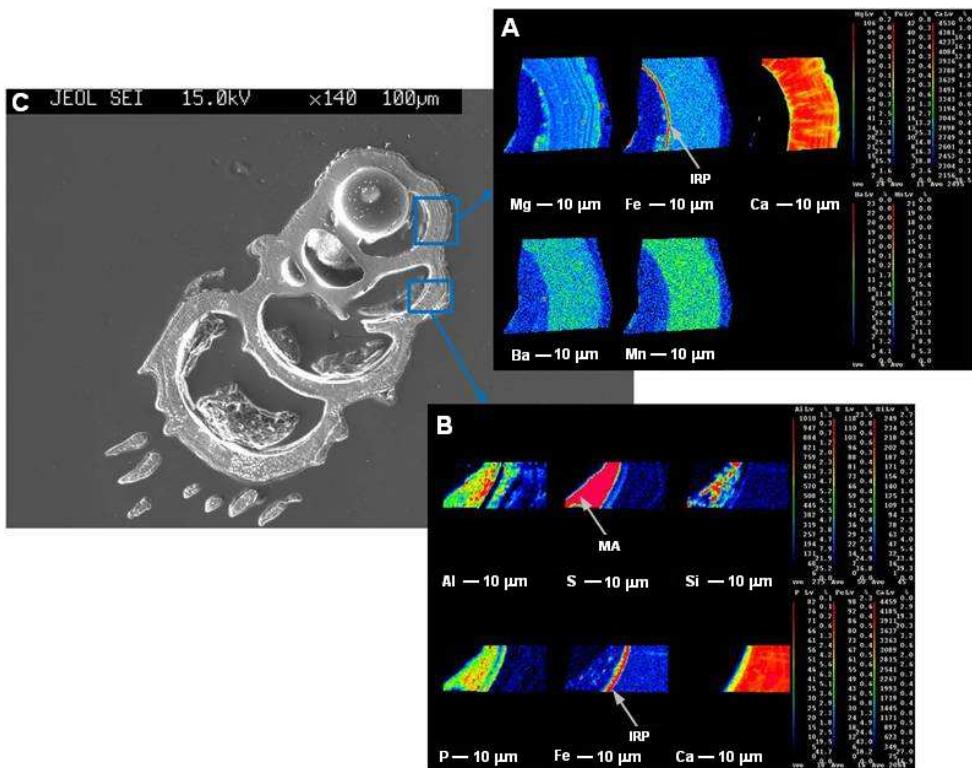
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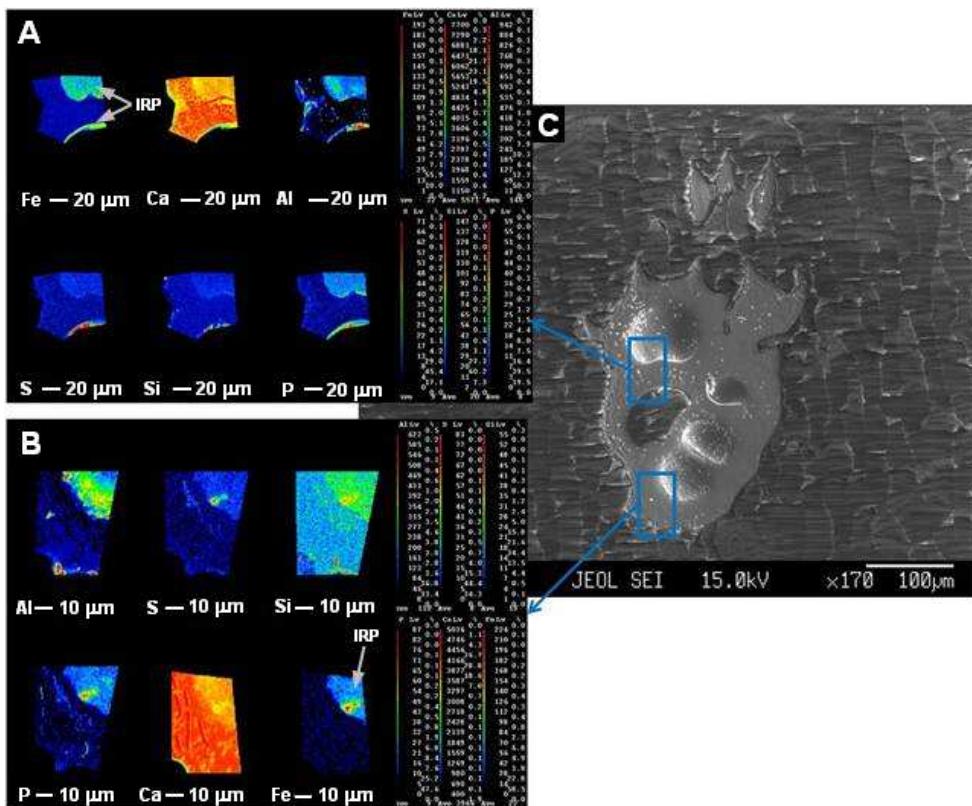
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**Fig. 2.** EMP elemental mappings (A and B) and secondary electron image (C) for an *Uvigerina peregrina* specimen from 579 m water depth (M77-1-487/MUC-39) on an exposed section of the foraminiferal test. Distribution of Ca, Mg, Fe, Ba, Mn, Al, S, Si and P in the foraminiferal test. All intensity values are expressed in counts per second (cps) as shown in the color bars. IRP: Fe rich phase at inner test surface MA: muddy accumulations inside test chambers.

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**Fig. 3.** EMP elemental mappings (A and B) and secondary electron image (C) for an *Uvigerina peregrina* specimen from 579 m water depth (M77-1-487/MUC-39) on an exposed section of the foraminiferal test. Distribution of Ca, Mg, Fe, Ba, Mn, Al, S, Si and P in the foraminiferal test. All intensity values are expressed in counts per second (cps) as shown in the color bars. IRP: Fe rich phase at inner test surface.

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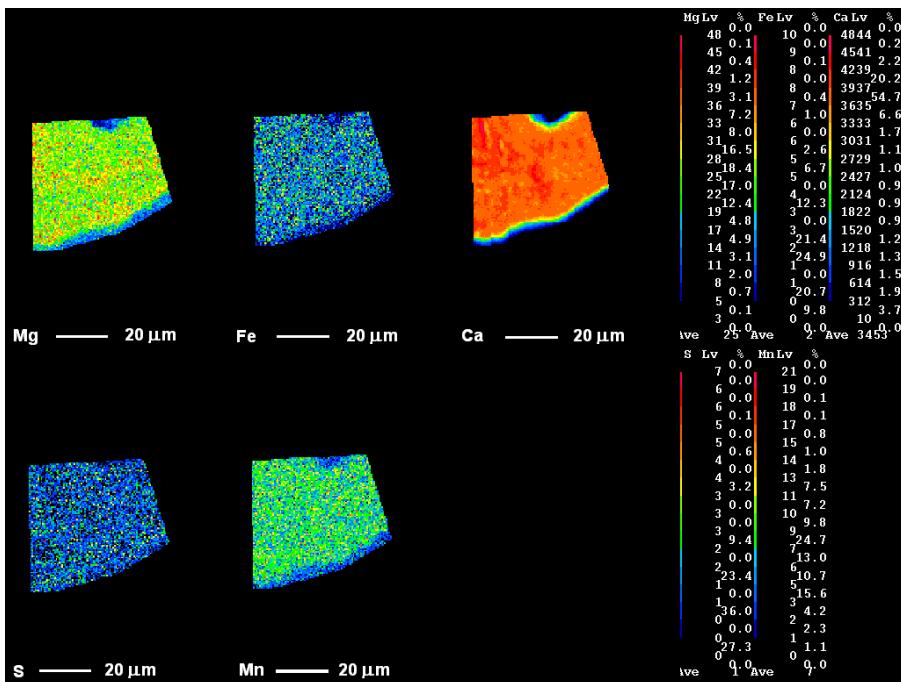
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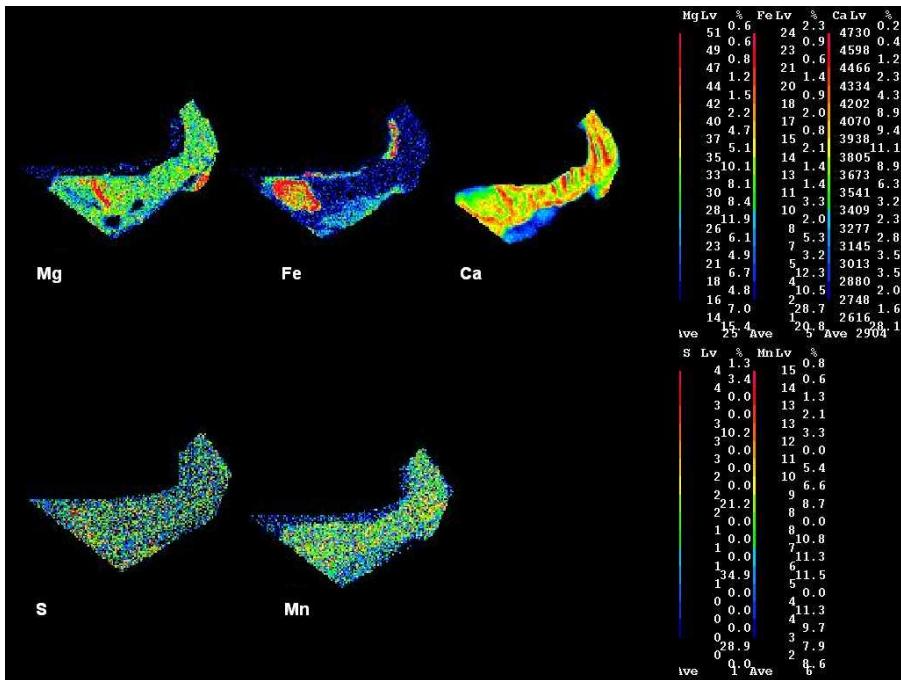
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**Fig. 4.** EMP elemental mapping of a section from an *Uvigerina peregrina* specimen from 640 m water depth (M77-1-565/MUC-60) on an exposed section of the foraminiferal test treated with an oxidative cleaning procedure. Distribution of Mg, Fe, Mn, S and Ca in the foraminiferal test. All intensity values are expressed in counts per second (cps) as shown in the color bars. Note that no contaminant phases are visible in the Fe distribution.

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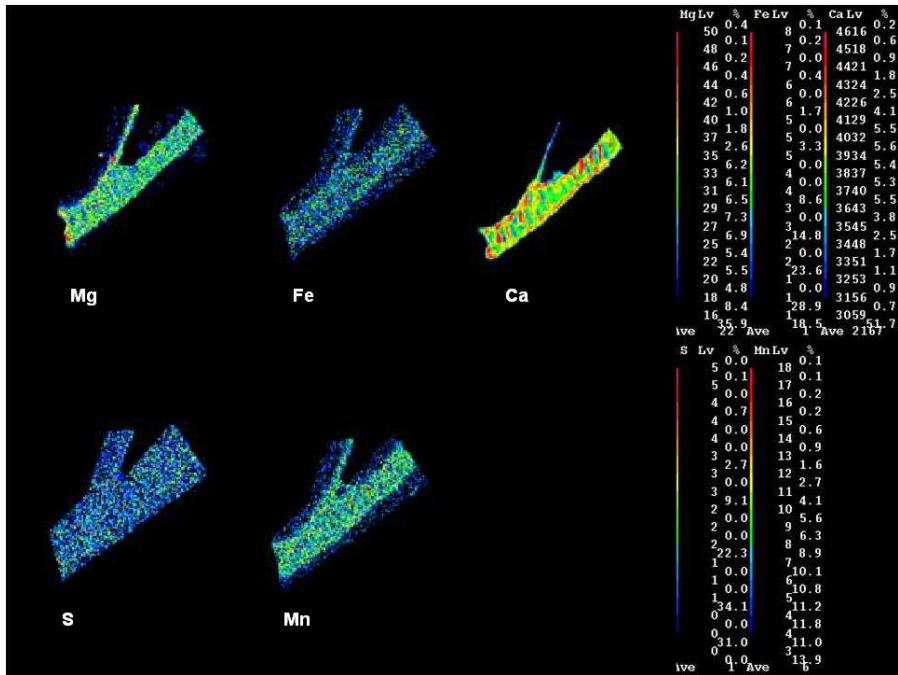
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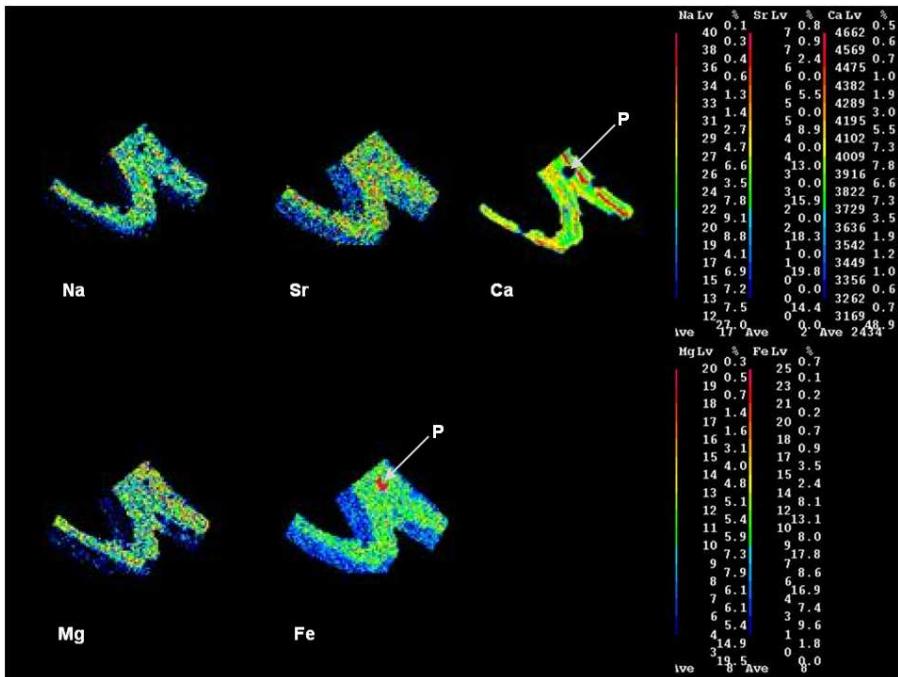
**Fig. 5.** EMP elemental mapping of a section from an uncleaned *Bolivina spissa* specimen from 640 m water depth (M77-1-565/MUC-60) on an exposed section of the foraminiferal test. Distribution of Mg, Fe, Mn, S and Ca in the foraminiferal test. All intensity values are expressed in counts per second (cps) as shown in the color bars. Note that the Fe distribution shows a contaminant phase in the inner part of the test walls similar like the uncleaned specimens of *U. peregrina*.

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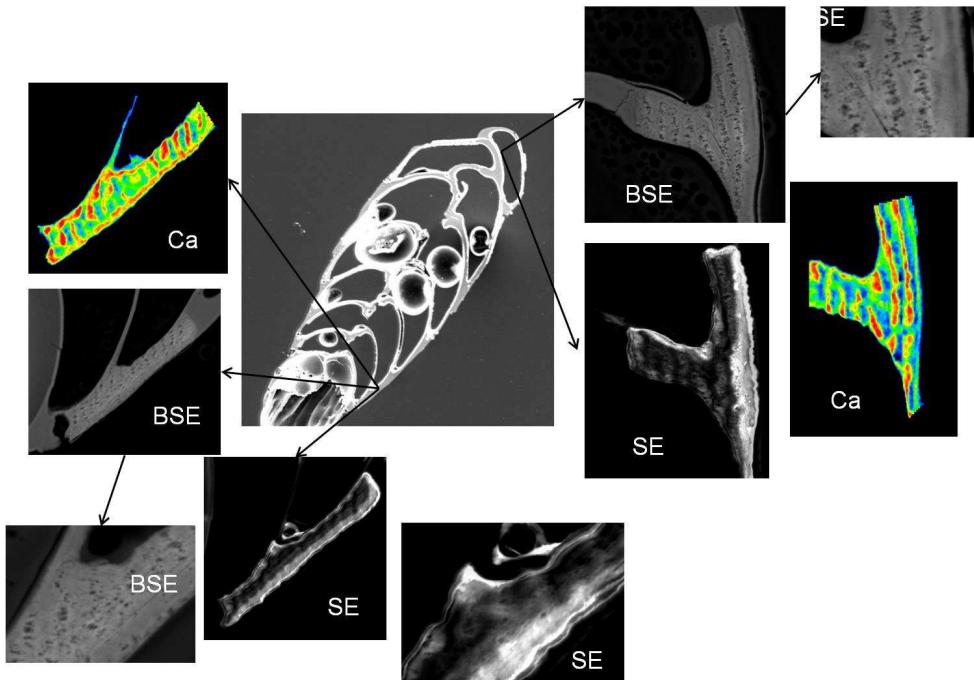
**Fig. 6.** EMP elemental mapping of a section from a *Bolivina spissa* from 640 m water depth (M77-1-565/MUC-60) on an exposed section of the foraminiferal test specimen treated with an oxidative cleaning procedure. Distribution of Mg, Fe, Mn, S and Ca in the foraminiferal test. All intensity values are expressed in counts per second (cps) as shown in the color bars. Note that no contaminant phases are visible in the Fe distribution.



**Fig. 7.** EMP elemental mapping of a section from a *Bolivina spissa* from 465 m water depth (M77-1-455/MUC-21) on an exposed section of the foraminiferal test specimen treated with an oxidative cleaning procedure. Distribution of Mg, Fe, Mn, S and Ca in the foraminiferal test. All intensity values are expressed in counts per second (cps) as shown in the color bars. Note that no contaminant phases are visible in the Fe distribution except inside a test pore (P).

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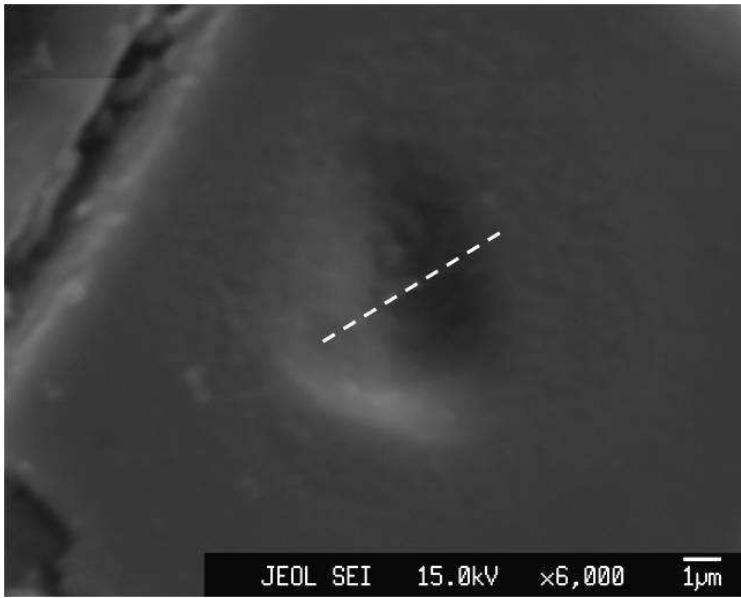


**Fig. 8.** Cross section of a *Bolivina spissa* specimen from 640 m water depth (M77-1-565/MUC-60) with a secondary electron overview image in the middle. Close ups of sections of Ca-EMP mappings (Ca) secondary electron images (SE) and backscattered electron images (BSE) are shown. Note that the Ca distribution is reflected by the holey structures seen on the BSE images.

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**Fig. 9.** Secondary electron micrograph of a test section from a *Bolivina spissa* specimen after measuring with SIMS. The spot diameter of the ion beam was about 4–5  $\mu\text{m}$ . Data acquisition time was roughly 10 min. Estimated depth of the spot  $\sim$ 2  $\mu\text{m}$ .

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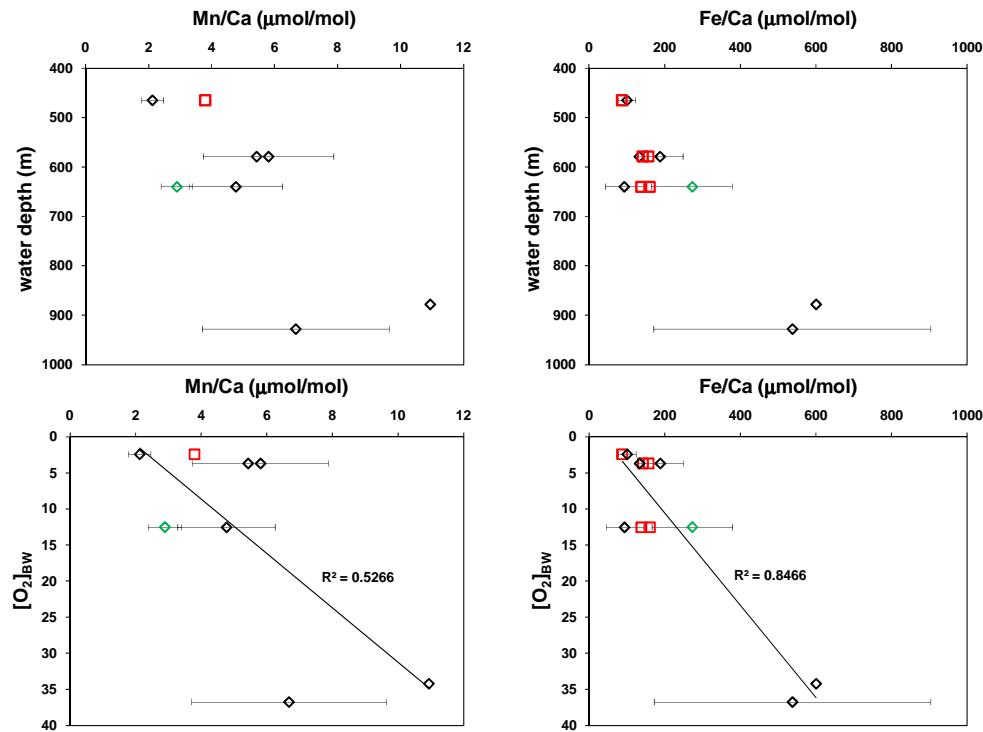
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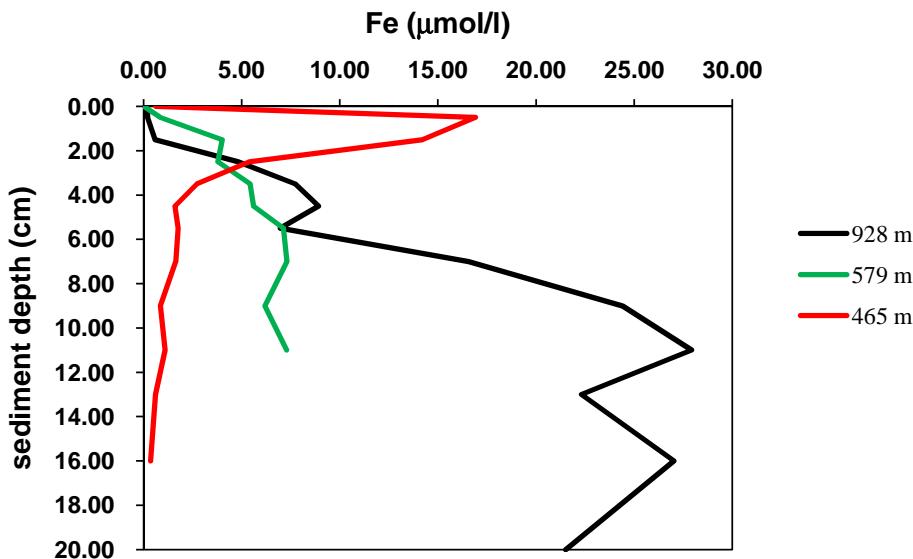
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**Fig. 10.** Mn/Ca and Fe/Ca ratios in tests of *Bolivina spissa* plotted against water depth and  $[O_2]_{BW}$ . Red squares indicate data points measured on bulk samples of 40 specimens with ICP-MS while diamonds indicate mean values from single specimens measured with SIMS. The specimens indicated by the black diamonds all have been treated with an oxidative cleaning procedure while the single green diamond represents an uncleaned specimen. Error bars on the SIMS data show the standard deviation between the different spots measured on a single specimen. Diamonds without error bars indicate mean values of only two measurements.

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**Fig. 11.** Fe pore water profiles for different sampling locations at 11°S off Peru (Red: M77-1-455/MUC-21, 465 m. Green: M77-1-487/MUC-38, 579 m. Black: M77-1-445/MUC-15, 928 m).

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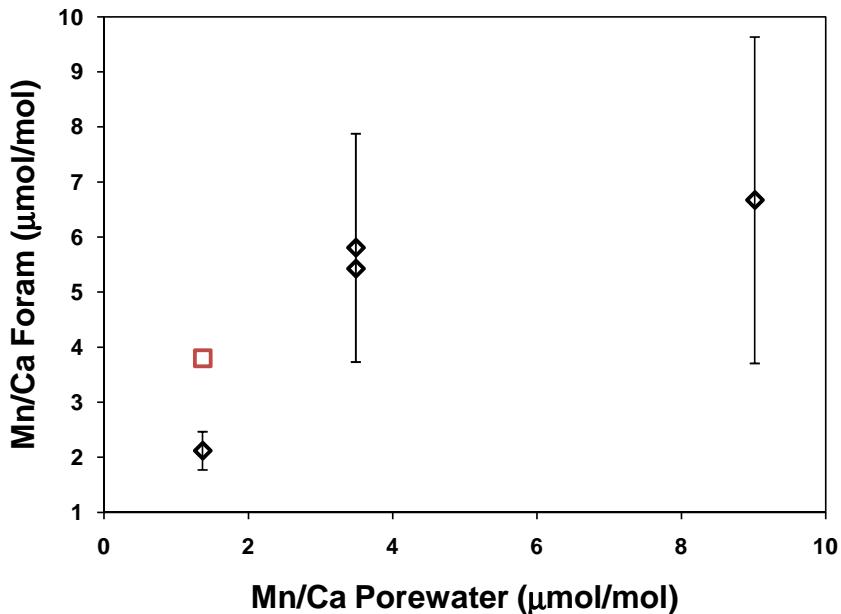
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**Fig. 12.** Correlation between the Mn/Ca ratio in tests of *Bolivina spissa* to the Mn/Ca ratio in the top cm of the pore water from the same sampling location. Red squares indicate data points measured on bulk samples of 40 specimens with ICP-MS while black diamonds indicate mean values from single specimens measured with SIMS. Error bars on the SIMS data show the standard deviation between the different spots measured on a single specimen. Diamonds without error bars indicate mean values of only two measurements.

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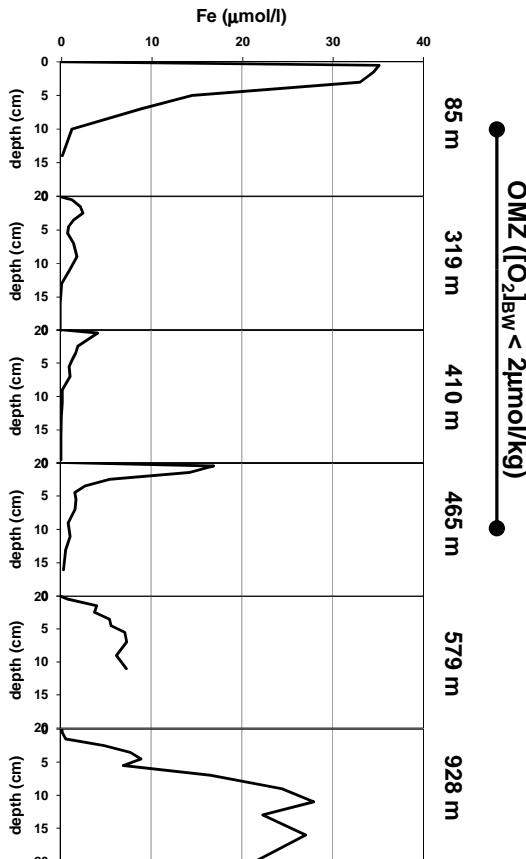
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**Fig. 13.** Pore water profiles for Fe at different water depths at the Peruvian OMZ. The bracket indicates the boundaries of the OMZ where bottom water oxygen concentrations fall below  $2 \mu\text{mol kg}^{-1}$ . Profiles taken from Scholz et al. (2011).