

# Late Campanian-Maastrichtian *Kamptnerius magnificus* acme in the South Atlantic section of the Southern Ocean, ODP Holes 690C and 700B

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**ABSTRACT:** Coccolithophores are organisms with distribution largely controlled by temperature and availability of nutrients. For extinct calcareous nannofossils there are some uncertainties in assigning ecological preferences of taxa, however sometimes species occurrences exhibit striking high abundances showing clear preferences for certain environment, the so-called acme events. During quantitative analyses on samples from the South Atlantic section of the Southern Ocean (Holes 690C and 700B) a notable *Kamptnerius magnificus* acme was documented. This is the first time that such bioevent is described for the South Atlantic Ocean. Preliminary analysis indicates that this event probably is related to the cooling in sea-surface temperatures during the Late Campanian-Maastrichtian.

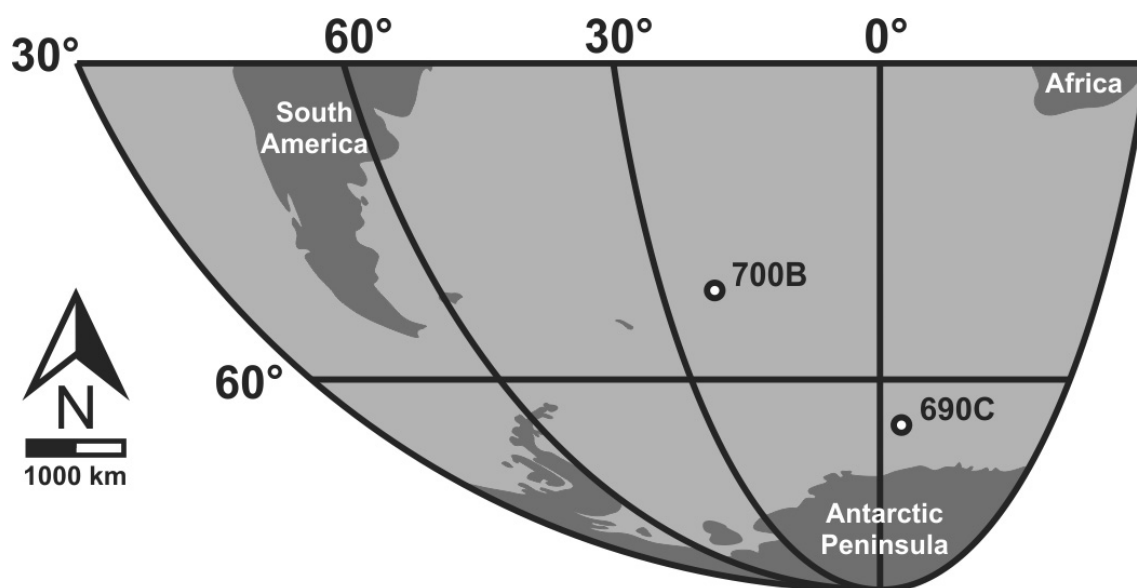
**Keywords:** Calcareous nannofossils; Southern Ocean; Campanian-Maastrichtian; Paleoecology; Paleoceanography.

## INTRODUCTION

Calcareous nannofossil intervals characterized by sudden increases in the occurrences of *Kamptnerius magnificus* were observed in two ODP holes (690C and 700B) in the South Atlantic section of the Southern Ocean. In their original reports on these austral high-latitudes, Pospichal and Wise (1990) for Hole 690C, and Crux (1991) for Hole 700B, showed abundant occurrences of *Kamptnerius magnificus*, but did not point out the

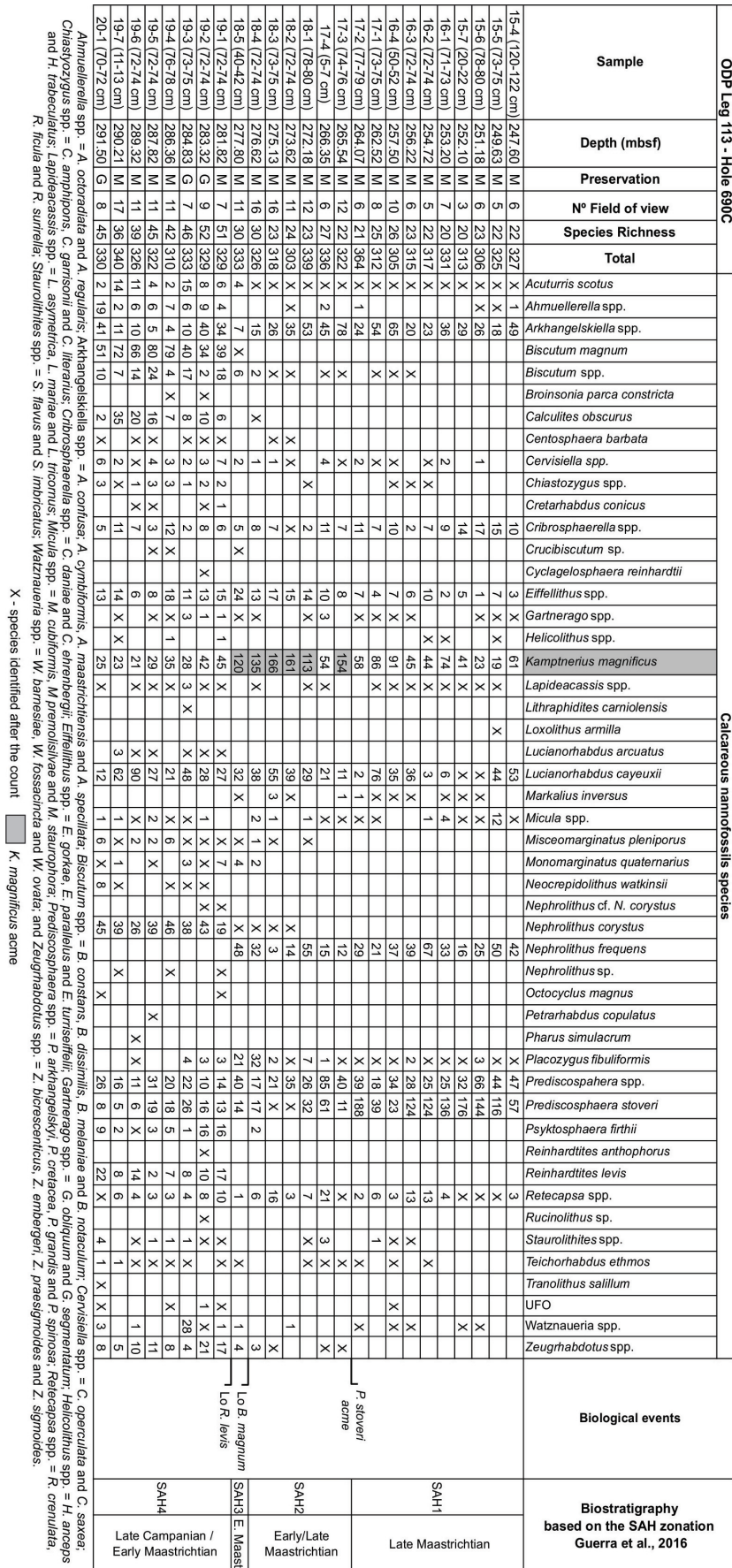
striking increase in abundance and the possibility to be considered as an acme zone. However, there is another report of a similar acme pattern described by Thibault et al (2015) in a Upper Campanian-Maastrichtian section of Denmark.

The purpose of this study is to consider and describe for the first time this acme of *Kamptnerius magnificus* in the austral high-latitudes and to suggest its importance for biostratigraphy and paleoceanography.



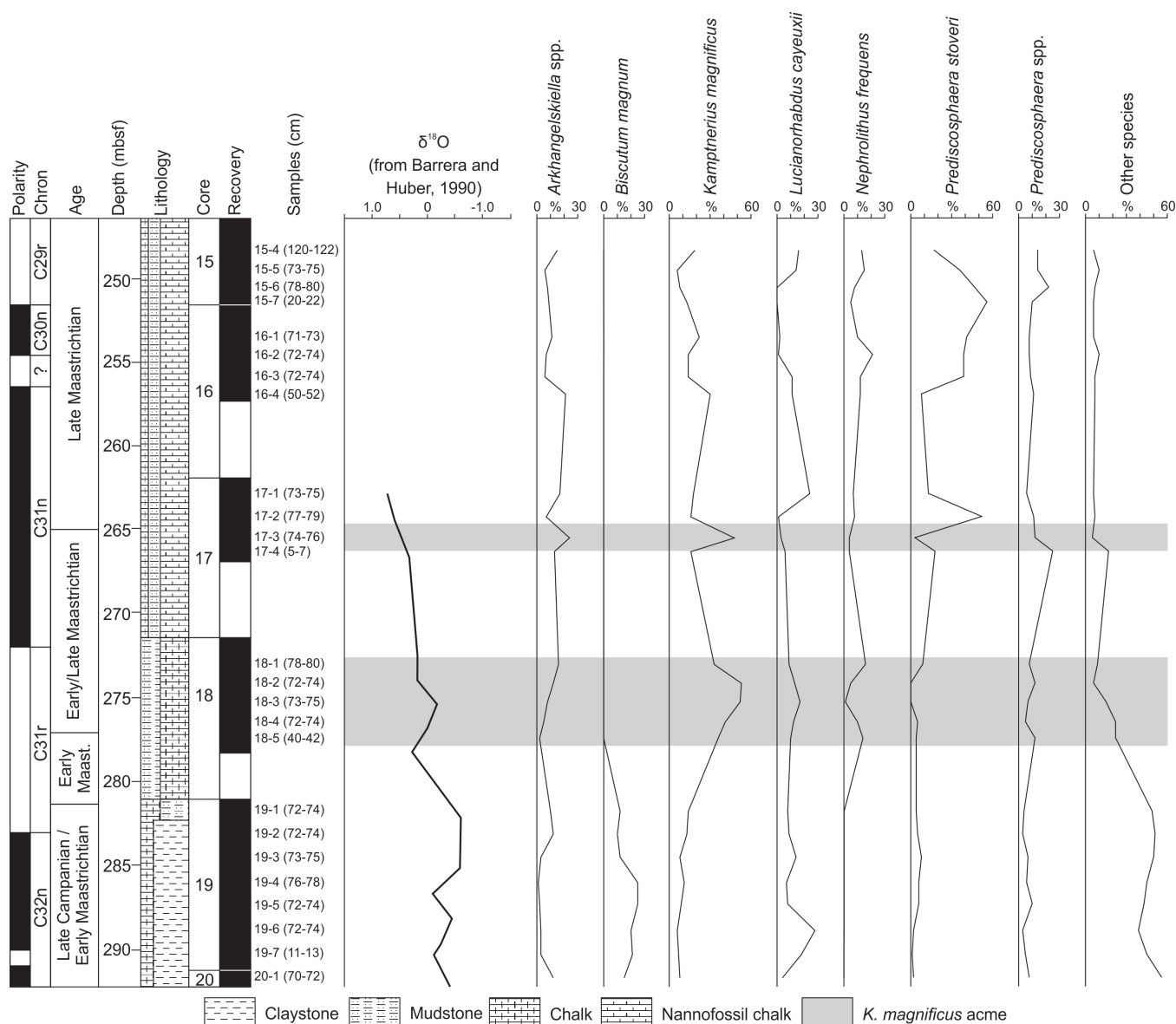
TEXT-FIGURE 1  
Location map of sites selected for this study.

TEXT-FIGURE 2  
Range-chart showing calcareous nannofossil distribution and biostratigraphical interpretation for Hole 690C.



TEXT-FIGURE 3  
Range-chart showing calcareous nanofossil distribution and biostratigraphical interpretation for Hole 700B

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TEXT-FIGURE 4

Abundance of selected species at Hole 690C are reported against chronostratigraphy, age, lithology and oxygen isotope values.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

Holes 690C and 700B were drilled by Ocean Drilling Program (ODP) in 1987 in the South Atlantic section of the Southern Ocean (text-figure 1). Twenty-five samples were taken from the Upper Campanian-Maastrichtian section at Hole 690C composed of foraminifer-bearing muddy nannofossil chalk, muddy nannofossil chalk, calcareous claystone, clayed chalk, and muddy chalk. At Hole 700B 18 samples were taken from micritic limestone, clay-bearing micritic limestone, and limestone.

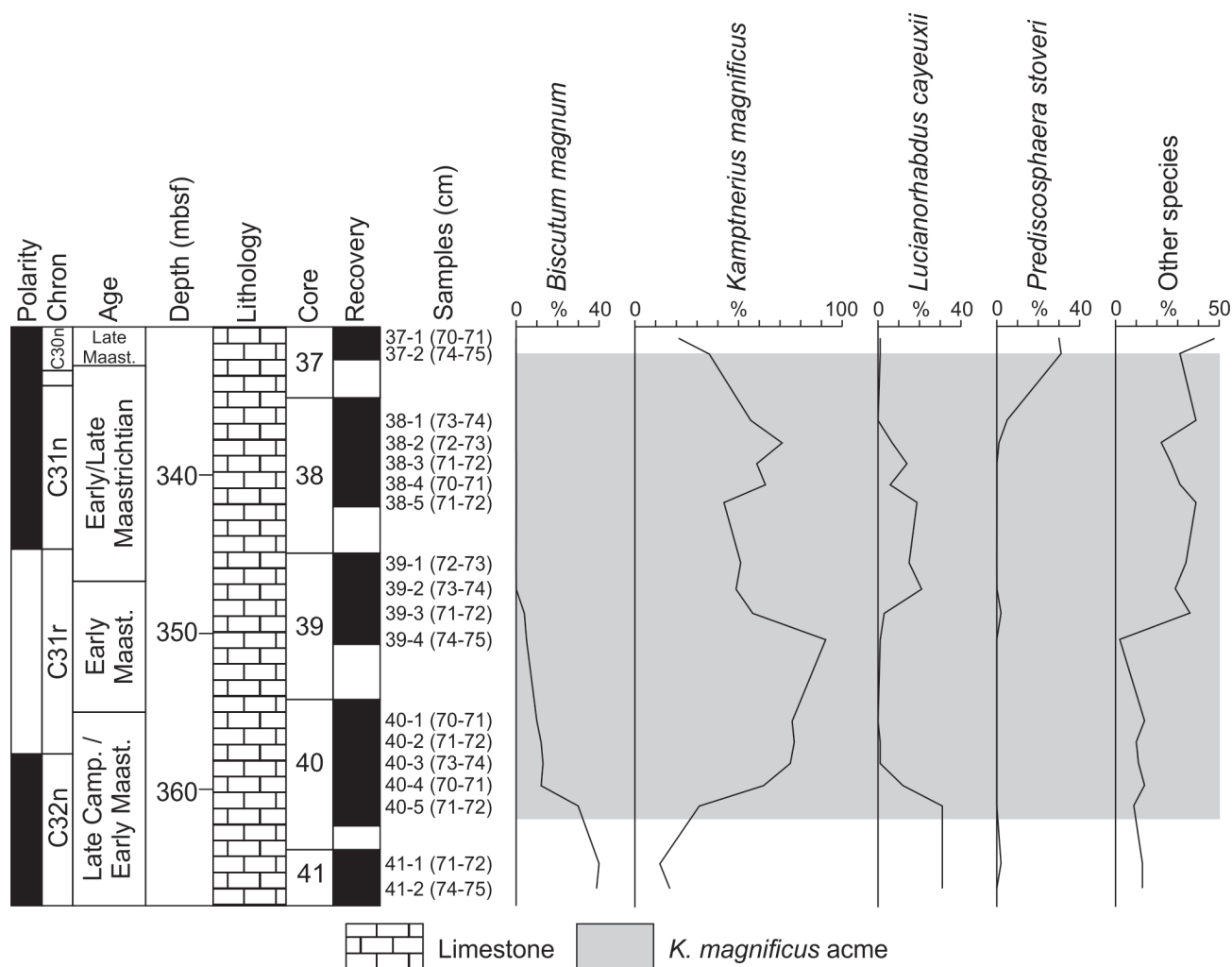
One sample was taken per section, corresponding to a sampling resolution of ~1.5 meters. The total of 43 samples were prepared following the standard smear-slide technique described in Bown and Young (1998).

A quantitative study was performed using a Zeiss Axio Imager A2 microscope at 1000x magnification. At least 300 specimens were counted per sample, followed by the scanning of three more longitudinal traverses (~300 fields of view) for rare taxa missing in the initial counts, indicated in our range charts by "X". Sometimes, important markers were identified after the counting, denoting species present but do not represent only one specimen.

## RESULTS

The biostratigraphic analysis at Holes 690C and 700B showed a significant increase in *Kamptnerius magnificus* abundances starting between the Late Campanian and Early Maastrichtian stages. Most of the specimens identified are large to very large in size and have a small flange (Plate 1, Figures A-B, F-J). Also





TEXT-FIGURE 5

Abundance of selected species at Hole 700B are reported against chronostratigraphy, age and lithology.

some specimens are broken (Plate 1, Figures H-I), and just a few specimens with medium to large flanges were identified (Plate 1, Figures C-E).

At Hole 690C the acme interval of this species is located between Samples 18-5 and 17-3 (277.80 to 265.54 mbsf), corresponding to ~12.26 m, while at Hole 700B this interval occurs between Samples 40-5 and 37-2 (361.21 to 332.94 mbsf) measuring ~28.27 m.

The range-charts with the species distribution along both sections are presented in text-figures 2 and 3. Some species were grouped into higher taxonomic levels, such as *Ahmuelierella* spp., *Arkhangelskiella* spp., *Biscutum* spp., *Cervisiella* spp., *Chiastozygus* spp., *Cribrosphaerella* spp., *Cylindralithus* spp., *Eiffellithus* spp., *Gartnerago* spp., *Helicolithus* spp., *Lapideacassis* spp., *Micula* spp., *Prediscosphaera* spp., *Retecapsa* spp., *Staurolithites* spp., *Watznaueria* spp., *Zeugrhabdotus* spp. The biostratigraphic framework for the two holes has been taken from Guerra et al. (2016).

In text-figures 4 and 5 the percentages of the most abundant species were plotted against chronostratigraphy, age, lithology

and oxygen isotope values (when available). At Hole 690C *K. magnificus* shows a percentage ranging from 6-30% before/after the acme interval and increases to 33-52% during the acme interval (text-figure 4), whereas at Hole 700B the percentage before/after the acme ranges between 12-21% and during the acme a striking 31-92% (text-figure 5).

## DISCUSSION

A significant increase in abundance of some species has been used as biostratigraphic and paleoceanographic markers. According to Lees (2002), since the first occurrences and last occurrences of the stratigraphically useful, widely-correlatable Upper Cretaceous nannofossil taxa are now fairly well constrained, the next generation of improvements is likely to depend more on identifying widely-correlatable abundances of certain taxa.

Despite its wide global distribution, the occurrences of *Kamptnerius magnificus* have been associated to cool water temperatures (Thierstein 1976, 1981; Gardin and Monechi 1998; Gardin 2002; Lees 2002; Thibault and Gardin 2006, 2007; Thibault et al. 2010; Sheldon et al. 2010; Linnert et al.

2011; Thibault et al. 2015; Thibault and Husson, 2016), mainly because of its preference for high-latitudes.

Thibault et al. (2015) was the first study to report a *Kamptnerius magnificus* acme interval similar to the one described herein. The authors analyzed an Upper Campanian-Maastrichtian section from Denmark and reported two possible acmes of *K. magnificus*, interpreted as cooling of sea-surface temperatures (SST). At Hole 690C the beginning of the increase in *K. magnificus* coincides with the same level where the  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  suddenly increases (close to sample 18-5, see text-figure 4), a pattern that probably indicates cooling of the SST. As well as Thibault et al. (2015) some previous studies used sudden small increases in *K. magnificus* abundances (and other high-latitude taxa) to characterize intervals of cooling (Thibault and Gardin, 2006; 2007; Sheldon et al., 2010).

The biostratigraphic value of this acme was not proven in the South Atlantic section of the Southern Ocean, because this bioevent seems to be somewhat diachronous between the two holes analyzed in this study. At Hole 690C the increase in abundances of *K. magnificus* starts in the middle part of Chron C31r (Early Maastrichtian), while at Hole 700B this phenomenon starts in the middle part/top of Chron C32n (Late Campanian/Early Maastrichtian) (see text-figures 4 and 5).

## CONCLUSION

This study documents for the first time the presence of an *Kamptnerius magnificus* acme in the South Atlantic section of the Southern Ocean. The increase in abundance of this specie is attributed to cooling in sea-surface temperature during the Late Campanian-Maastrichtian in the high-latitudes. This description is the first step in the record of this sort of bioevent. We intend to make new  $\text{C}^{13}$  and  $\text{O}^{18}$  isotope analyses for each site, as well as different trace-elements analyses to better understand the main factors that lead to these notable acme events.

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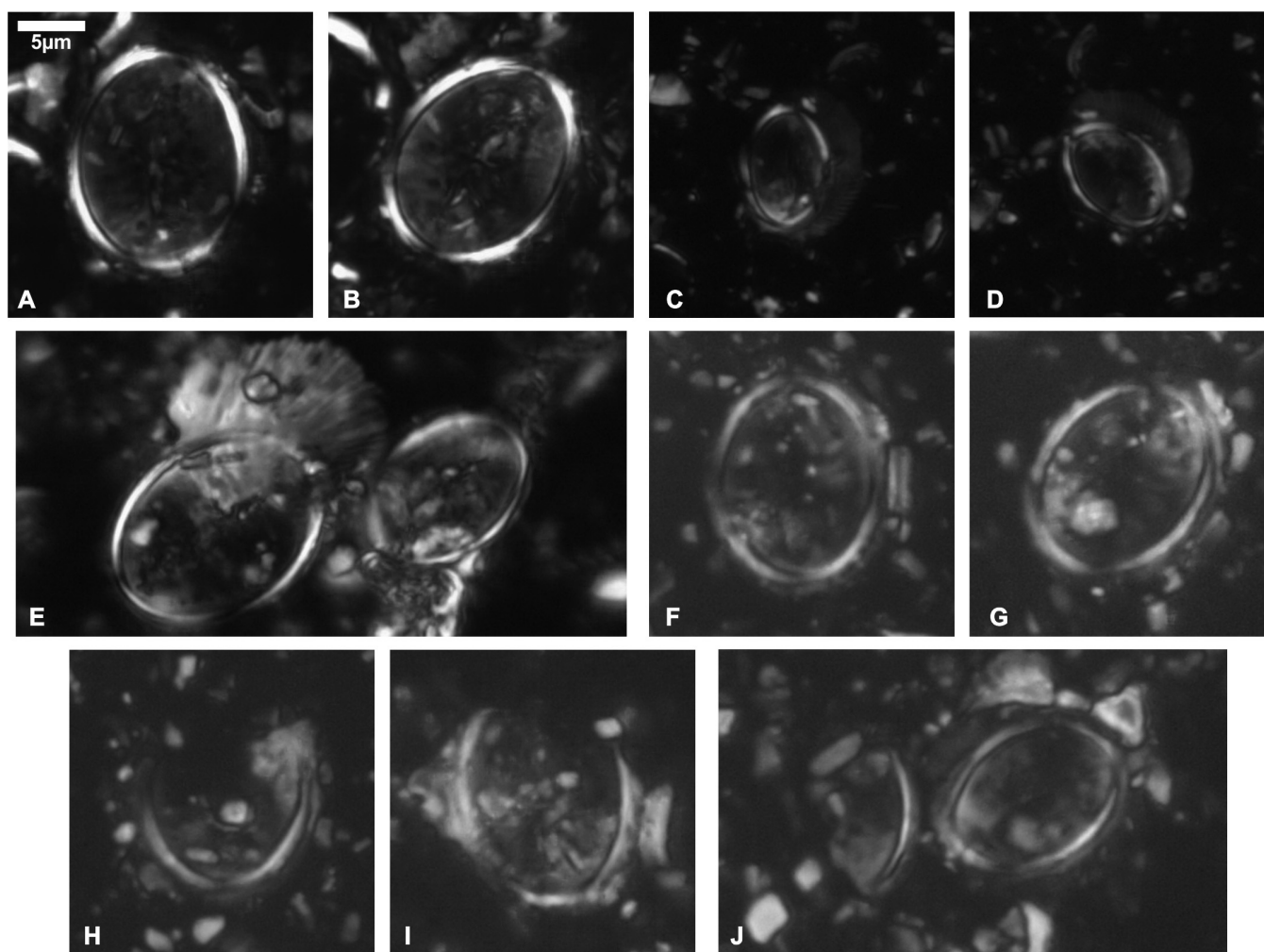
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# PLATE 1

- |     |                                     |     |                                     |
|-----|-------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|
| A-B | Hole 690C Sample 18-4 (276.62 mbsf) | F-G | Hole 700B Sample 40-1 (355.20 mbsf) |
| C-D | Hole 690C Sample 18-1 (272.18 mbsf) | H-I | Hole 700B Sample 40-2 (340.70 mbsf) |
| E   | Hole 690C Sample 17-3 (265.54 mbsf) | J   | Hole 700B Sample 40-4 (332.94 mbsf) |