Celebrating 70 years of *Micropaleontology*

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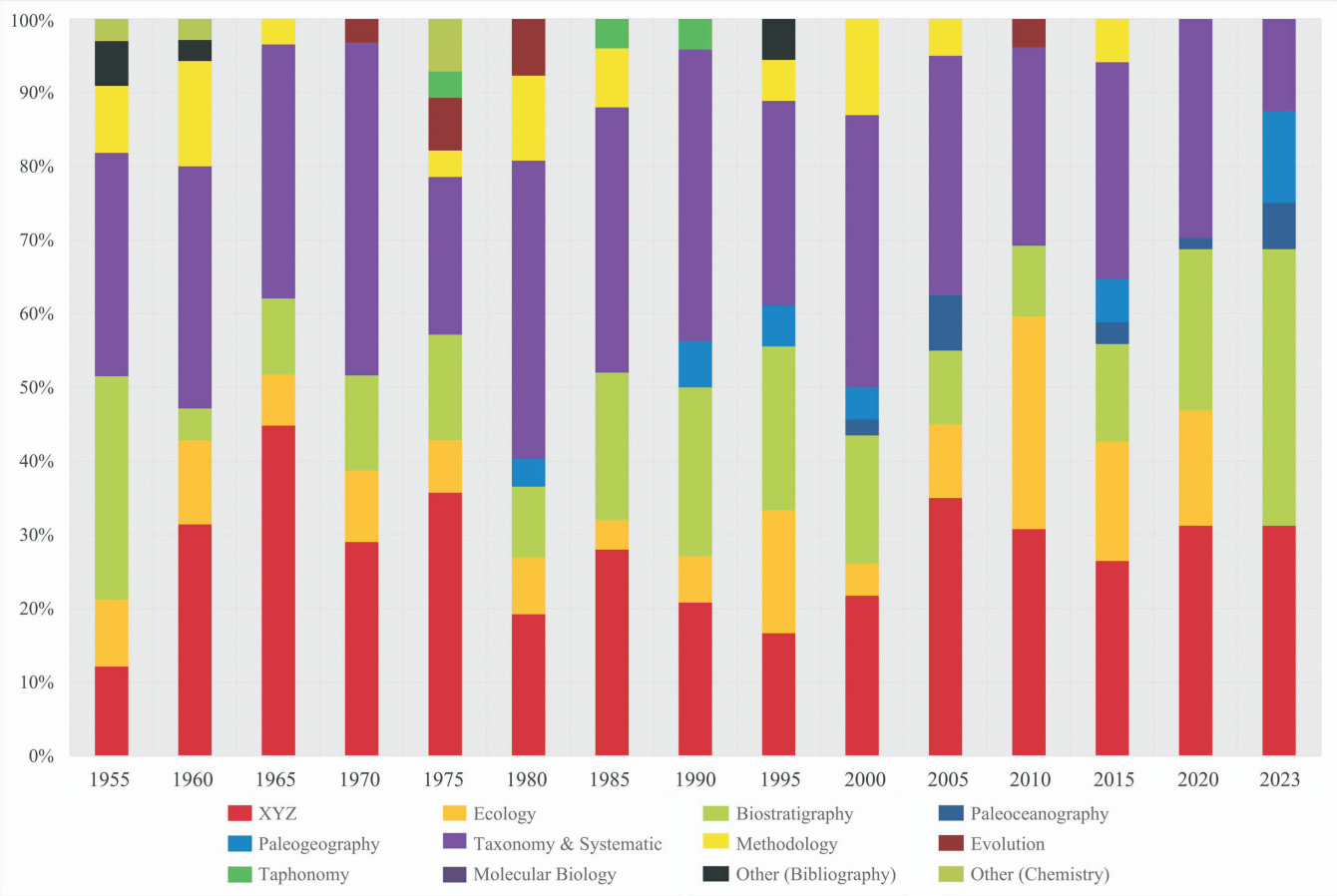
With the publication of this issue, our journal enters its 70th year of continuous publication. The journal was originally launched at the American Museum of Natural History as an outlet for taxonomic and biostratigraphic studies and to serve as a newsletter to keep the international micropaleontological community informed of progress and events. In its first few years, national correspondents contributed news items about activities in their home countries. The first volume consisted of a Who's Who of big names in our field, with articles from highly esteemed researchers such as Paul Brönnimann, Walter Blow, Trygve Braarud, John Bradshaw, Irene Crespin, Guillermo Colom, Georges Deflandre, Cesare Emiliani, Martin Glaessner, John Haynes, Eugenia Montanaro-Gallitelli, H. H. Renz, Al Traverse, and others. The journal started off with a strong group of authors, mostly foraminiferal specialists, but also included papers on calcareous nannofossils, ostracods, holothurians, and palynomorphs. There was even a bilingual paper, published in French: *"Sur la repartition stratigraphique de Globigerinelloides algeriana Cushman et ten Dam, 1948"* by Glintzboeckel and Magné (1955) with a complete English translation!

While not the first micropaleontological journal (Joseph A. Cushman began publishing his journal in 1925), under the leadership of our first Editors, Brooks Ellis and Angelina Messina, *Micropaleontology* was the first journal in the world to gather together papers on the broader aspects of micropaleontology, including microfossil groups other than foraminifera. The journal gained strength in the 1960s, with the publication of some classic pioneering studies. Among my favorite picks are the first Cenozoic planktonic foraminiferal biozonation by Orville Bandy (1964), the first Cretaceous zonation by Bandy (1967), Bill Berggren's (1969) *"Rates of Evolution in some Cenozoic Planktonic Foraminifera"* which established the important planktonic foraminiferal datum events, and a three-part series of papers on the ecology of modern planktonic foraminifera by Alan Bé (Bé, 1959; 1960; Bé and Hamlin 1967). My number-one favorite is the study of Tolderlund and Bé (1971), who came up with the brilliant idea of taking weekly plankton samples from weather ships that used to be stationed in the North Atlantic in order to study the seasonal distribution of planktonic foraminifera. The last of these weather ships was decommissioned in 1982, meaning that a study of this kind can never be repeated. In fact, it would be a good idea to put together an e-book with these classic *Micropaleontology* papers for the benefit of students who are learning the subject.

Fundamental knowledge in micropaleontology is still strongly connected with the traditional task of documenting the fossil record and reporting new discoveries. To illustrate the trends over the last 70 years, from 1955 through 2023, we sampled the papers in our journal at intervals of five years, examining their titles and internal content to determine their primary focus. Research topics were classified into 11 categories: XYZ (i.e., documenting microfossils from a specific age and place), ecology, biostratigraphy, paleoceanography, paleogeography, taxonomy & systematics, methodology, evolution, taphonomy, and molecular biology. We plotted our findings in order to portray the relative proportions of papers belonging to a given category, to see how the research emphasis has changed, or remained constant, over time (text-fig. 1). Over the past 70 years, our journal has been remarkably constant in the relative proportions of subdisciplines we publish within the broad topic of micropaleontology, with only a small shift in emphasis in recent years to topics that deal with ecology and paleoecology.

One thing that has changed in recent years is the number of monographs and thematic issues. We now publish a greater number of thematic issues, for example the "Proceedings of the 10th International Workshop on Agglutinated Foraminifera" (Kaminski and Fekete 2018), followed by a monograph on late Neogene to Quaternary planktonic foraminifera from the northwestern Pacific (Lam and Leckie 2020), a double thematic issue on the taxonomy, molecular biology, and biogeography of the foraminiferal genus *Ammonia* (Hayward et al. 2021), a thematic issue on deep-water ostracods (Bergue and Kaminski 2022), an issue on Late Cretaceous ostracods from the Gulf Coastal Plain (Puckett and Hunt 2022), a monograph on Early Cretaceous palynomorphs from the North Sea (Duxbury 2023), a thematic issue on the biostratigraphy of Paleogene larger benthic foraminifera (Briguglio and Kaminski 2023); and most recently a monograph on Early Cretaceous Radiolarians from the Argo Abyssal Plain (Baumgartner et al. 2023). This trend continues with the monograph on Eocene larger benthic foraminifera from the Ryukyus and Taiwan by Matsumaru and Chen (2024) in this issue. We now seem to serve as the mainstream journal of choice for larger taxonomic studies. These monographs appear as single or double issues of the journal.

In acknowledgement of the fact that we are publishing an increasing number of monographs, since 2020 we have been awarding a "Best Paper Award". Candidates for the award are selected by the Editorial Board of our journal and are given a certificate that is suitable for framing. We place greater weight on contributions from young scientists who have made a significant contribution to our field by publishing in the journal. As a whole, our subject has very few awards that can be given to Early Career scientists, and such an award was long overdue. The first "best paper award" was given to Adriane Lam and Mark Leckie, for the monograph on northwestern Pacific planktonic foraminifera (Lam and Leckie 2020). The next award was given to the team of Bruce Hayward who published the *Ammonia* volume (Hayward et al. 2021), and the award for 2022 was



TEXTFIGURE 1
Predominant subdisciplines of papers published in *Micropaleontology* from 1955 to 2023. XYZ = "Microfossil group X from age Y of location Z".

presented to Brian Huber, Maria-Rose Petrizzo and Francesca Falzoni for their revision of the Cretaceous genus *Globigerinelloides* (Huber et al. 2022). The award for 2023 was given to the team of Peter Baumgartner for their monograph on Early Cretaceous radiolarians from the Indian Ocean (Baumgartner et al. 2023). Such awards are important to early career scientists, as it's something to list in the curriculum vitae. Speaking from experience, even late career scientists are asked to list any awards received in a given year.

On a sad note, last year we said good-bye to our long-time friend and former Editor-in-Chief John Van Couvering. John's last contribution to this journal was a historical note in which he published portrait photos of the former correspondents who contributed items for the newsletter (Van Couvering 2021). This issue contains one of the last articles that passed through John's hands (Matsumaru and Chen 2024), and an obituary by his long-time friends and colleagues William Berggren and Marie-Pierre Aubry (Berggren and Aubry 2024). Bill has been closely associated with Micropaleontology Press since John took office in 1979 and Marie is a member of our journal's editorial board. The front cover depicts four species that have been named after him. Even after he officially retired from Micropaleontology Press, John was still helping *Micropaleontology* authors by editing their papers.

Finally, I would like to go on record by saying it has been a great honor to edit the journal over the past five years. I've seen our journal rise in the rankings since 2018, and for the last two years we have been in the Q2 category. I think we have re-established ourselves as one of the leading journals in our subject area. I've accepted another five-year term as Editor, and I'll do my best to ensure that we will continue to expand and improve for the foreseeable future. I also wish to take this opportunity to thank Greg Dinkins, our journals editor and Jean Self-Trail, Editor-in-Chief of our sister journal *Stratigraphy* for their unwavering support over the past five years, and my associate editors Anna Waśkowska and Antonino Briguglio for helping me with the handling of new submissions.

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