

# How biased is the Henry Buckley Collection of Planktonic Foraminifera?

Marina C. Rillo, Michal Kučera, Thomas H. G. Ezard,  
Andy Purvis & C. Giles Miller

October 12, 2017

## 1 Introduction

The original deposits, from which the Buckley collection was created, are still stored at the NHMUK Ocean-Bottom Deposits (OBD) Collection. There is no record of how Buckley picked the specimens to amass his collection. However, since he personally carried out the sample processing, isolation of foraminiferal specimens and their identification, all biases in his collection are likely to be systematic. The two main potential sources of bias are taxonomic bias (systematic misidentification or incomplete representation of the assemblage) and size bias (bias towards larger specimens or larger lineages). The presence of such bias could significantly affect trait distribution and variance. Therefore, the recognition of the biases in the Buckley collection is crucial when drawing conclusions about morphological variation. The bias information assessed in the course of my research in Bremen will be placed together with the collection dataset on the open online NHMUK Data Portal and will be valuable for other researchers that want to use it in the future.

## 2 Methods

### 2.1 Sampling

Ten sediments (of the 203) used by Henry Buckley to assemble his collection were re-sampled from the OBD Collection (Table 1), by taking roughly half of the amount available in the OBD jars and tubes. Each of these samples was further split into two equal parts, leaving an archive sample and a sample to be processed. The processing of the samples consisted of weighting each of them, then wet-washing over a  $63\mu\text{m}$  sieve and dried. The samples were further dry-sieved over a  $150\mu\text{m}$  sieve and the fraction bigger than  $150\mu\text{m}$  was further split with a microsplitter to produce a sample containing around 300 specimens (Table 1). All specimens on these splits were picked and identified (**supp info with species table for each sample**). In total 2837 specimens were picked, identified and mounted on slides. These slides are now part of the Henry Buckley Collection at the Micropalaeontology Section NHMUK and can be used as a didactic collection to show the intraspecific variability of morphologies across each species' biogeographical range.

Table 1: Sediments re-sampled for bias analysis

OBD IRN	Ocean	Latitude	Longitude	Sea Depth (m)	Mass (g)	Total no. ind.
32657	Indian	-50.01667	123.06667	-3976	grams	318
38482	Indian	-40.45000	49.81667	-3780	grams	177
36053	Indian	-26.93667	111.18167	-3350	grams	279
34991	Atlantic	-21.25000	-14.03333	-3740	grams	265
34671	Indian	-19.56667	64.63333	-2708	grams	376
34993	Pacific	-15.65000	-179.06250	-2519	grams	300
37148	Indian	-7.59167	61.48333	-3507	grams	305
33668	Pacific	-0.70000	147.00000	-2213	grams	331
33286	Atlantic	24.33333	-24.46667	-5153	grams	260
14609	Arctic	85.25000	-167.90000	-1774	grams	226
						2837

## 2.2 Size measurements

To obtain the size distribution from the bulk sediments we manually mounted specimens on slides. The shell position on the slide will correspond to the shell position Buckley established for each lineage. These slides will were imaged and the foraminiferal shell size was measured using in NOC Southampton. Brombacher et al. (in preparation) quantified the reproducibility of shell size measurements and concluded that it is highly consistent with remounting the slides.

## 2.3 Data Analysis

Taxonomic bias was assessed by comparing for each sample the species identified by us and the ones present in the Buckley Collection. Dissimilarity

Size bias can be detected as a bias towards larger specimens or larger lineages. The latter has the same effect as an incomplete representation of the assemblage, as it would mean that Buckley only identified a sub-sample (large lineages) of the full assemblage. Size bias towards larger individuals will be assessed by comparing the shell size distribution obtained from my re-sampling of the sediments and the one obtained from the Buckley collection. Shell size distributions were compared using statistical test.

Size distributions already have an artificial cut-off dictated by the mesh size of the sieve used when processing the bulk sediment. This artificial cut-off influences each lineage differently, because depending on the lineage's average shell size the cut-off will eliminate a different portion of its population.

# 3 Results

## 3.1 Taxonomic bias

we expected that Buckley's species richness for each sample would be a subsample (i.e. nested) of the species richness found by us. A incomplete representation of the assemblage.

### **3.2 Size bias**

## **4 Discussion**

- Rarefaction curve MARGO
- Similarity among neighbouring samples MARGO
- bias of rare species

## **5 Conclusion**