

# Ecological Characteristics of the Foraminiferal Fauna (Protozoa: Foraminifera) of the Bulgarian South Black Sea Area

*Blagovest K. Temelkov*

Department of Ecology and Environmental Conservation, Faculty of Biology, University of Plovdiv, 24 Tsar Assen Str., Plovdiv 4000, Bulgaria, e-mail: blagovest\_temelkov@abv.bg

**Abstract:** The research provides a synecological characteristic of the foraminiferal communities inhabiting five types of sediment from the upper sublittoral (down to 20 m depth), seashore pools and river mouths of the Bulgarian South Black Sea area. It determines the species' frequency of occurrence, the dominant structure and similarity of the foraminiferal communities. In the sea samples *Ammonia tepida*, *Ammonia compacta* and *Elphidium macellum* are found in all sediment types, but only one of them, *A. tepida*, is found in seashore pools and river mouths. An assessment is made of the ecological conditions in the studied sediment types, using some basic characteristics of the communities' species-structure. It shows that the best conditions for foraminiferal development exist in fine-grained (predominant fraction over 50%), sandy sediment of the sea upper sublittoral.

**Key words:** ecology, Foraminifera, Black Sea, Bulgaria.