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Abstract

This paper briefly summarizes current knowledge on water-depth indicators in Permian radiolarians, and compares this knowledge with observational evidence for water-depth indicators in living radiolarians. Studies on modern radiolarians demonstrate the feasibility of estimating floating depths at the species level, but not at higher taxonomic levels. This apparently contradicts the common assumption that the Subfamily Copicyntrinae indicates shallow water, and the Order Albaillellaria deep water in the Permian. We approach this contradiction in water-depth distributions by