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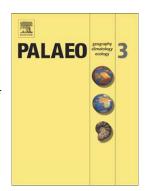
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Climatic fluctuations and sea surface water circulation patterns at the end of the Cretaceous era: calcareous nannofossil evidence

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Abstract

New paleoecological data are presented for late Maastrichtian calcareous nannofossil assemblages of the Indian Ocean and the Boreal epicontinental Chalk Sea. These data are compiled with recent results in the tropical Atlantic, Pacific and Tethys oceans in order to characterize environmental changes by the end of the Cretaceous era. The paleobiogeographic distribution of the warm-water species *Micula murus* is updated and indicates the existence of major sea-surface currents in the late Maastrichtian Atlantic Ocean similar to the present day. The end-Maastrichtian greenhouse warming is characterized at tropical and sub-tropical latitudes by an increase in abundance of *Micula murus* and the temporary disappearance of the high-fertility marker *Biscutum constans*. In the Boreal realm, the greenhouse episode is marked by a contemporaneous acme of *Watznaueria barnesiae* coincident with very rare occurrences of *M. murus* and other tropical nannofossil species which have never been reported before at boreal latitudes. A review of cyclostratigraphic and

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