

Geowissenschaftliches Kolloquium

Natürliche Ozeanversauerung im Pliozän: Grund für niedrige Skelettbildungsraten bei Riffkorallen?

Donnerstag, 9. Juli 2015 - 16.15 Uhr

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Decreasing supersaturation of aragonite in seawater in response to ongoing ocean acidification is a possible threat to calcifying shallow marine biota. We present the first data of calcification in fossil reef corals (Florida, USA). They represent a time interval from 3.2 – 1.2 Ma when atmospheric CO₂ (pCO₂) was similar to the present-day or even higher. Calcification rates amounted 50% of modern reef corals. We suggest that low calcification rates reflect high temperatures and/or low saturation of seawater with aragonite, possibly due to high pCO₂.

Prof. Dr. Thomas Brachert received his PhD from Erlangen University (Germany). His principal research interest is the carbonate sedimentology and paleoecology of reefs and shallow water carbonates.



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