



Salinity effects on cultured *Neogloboquadrina pachyderma* (sinistral) from high latitudes: new paleoenvironmental insights

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Abstract

This study presents culture experiments of the cold water species *Neogloboquadrina pachyderma* (sinistral) and provides new insights into the incorporation of elements in foraminiferal calcite of common and newly established proxies for paleoenvironmental applications (shell Mg/Ca, Sr/Ca and Na/Ca). Specimens were collected from sea ice during the austral winter in the Antarctic Weddell Sea and subsequently cultured at different salinities and a constant temperature. Incorporation of the fluorescent dye calcein showed new chamber formation in the culture at salinities of 30, 31, and 69. Cultured foraminifers at salinities of 46 to 83 only revealed chamber wall thickening, indicated by the fluorescence of the whole shell. Signs of reproduction and the associated gametogenic calcite were not observed in any of the culture experiments. Trace element analyses were performed using an electron microprobe, which revealed increased shell Mg/Ca, Sr/Ca, and Na/Ca values at higher salinities, with Mg/Ca showing the lowest sensitivity to salinity changes. This study enhances the knowledge about unusually high element concentrations in foraminifera shells from high latitudes. *Neogloboquadrina pachyderma* appears to be able to calcify in the Antarctic sea ice within brine channels, which have low temperatures and exceptionally high salinities due to ongoing sea ice formation.

Introduction

In high latitudes, faunal assemblages are dominated by the polar non-spinose, symbiont-barren species *Neogloboquadrina pachyderma* (sinistral) (Tolderlund and Bé 1971; Spindler 1996; Meland et al. 2006; Hendry et al. 2009). This emphasizes the application of *N. pachyderma* (s) shells as an ideal proxy

archive for paleoceanographic reconstructions in polar environments. The analysis of foraminiferal Mg/Ca is a well-established approach to reconstruct past sea surface temperatures in tropical to mid-latitude regions (e.g., Nürnberg et al. 1996; Lea et al. 1999; Elderfield and Ganssen 2000; Anand et al. 2003; Gussone et al. 2004). Paleo-reconstructions in sub-polar and polar regions are limited to a certain extent due to the

Highlights Chamber formation of *N. pachyderma* (s) in cultures at salinities between 31 and 69, chamber wall thickening at S 83.

Salinity affects incorporation of Mg/Ca, Sr/Ca, and Na/Ca in *N. pachyderma*.

N. pachyderma grown in sea ice brine pockets at high salinities may alter the paleoenvironmental record.

Foraminifers retrieved from sea ice are able to calcify in laboratory cultures.

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exponential Mg/Ca-temperature relation, causing a low temperature-sensitivity of foraminiferal Mg/Ca values in cold water masses (e.g., Nürnberg 1995; Elderfield and Ganssen 2000; Meland et al. 2006).

However, earlier studies reported elevated Mg/Ca values in *N. pachyderma*, collected from core-top sediments in Prydz Bay (Antarctica) and the Nordic Seas (Eggins et al. 2003; Meland et al. 2006). Such higher trace element values cannot solely be explained by temperature fluctuations, potentially influencing Mg incorporation. The former authors hypothesize that higher foraminiferal Mg/Ca values are possibly correlated to changes in the seawater chemistry (e.g., salinity (S), carbonate ion concentration $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$, pH, alkalinity) due to the influence of changing water masses caused by sea ice cover. This hypothesis is still under discussion and needs further verification.

On this basis, our study presents new environmental insights of *N. pachyderma* (s) specimens from a polar environment—the Antarctic sea ice in the Weddell Sea. This study aims to clarify whether *N. pachyderma* (s) specimens are capable of secreting calcite shells under extreme temperature and salinity conditions within sea ice. If so, are there distinct geochemical changes in the proxy signatures of *N. pachyderma* (s) specimens cultured in high salinities that are characteristic of sea ice conditions and individuals cultured in lower salinities that reflect conditions in the pelagic ocean? This could potentially alter paleo-oceanographic reconstructions from sedimentary records. To answer these questions, we present culture experiments of living foraminifers collected from the Antarctic sea ice. Element concentrations of newly calcified chambers in culture were measured by electron microprobe analyses. We determined foraminiferal Mg/Ca, a well-established proxy to reconstruct paleo-temperatures, and foraminiferal Sr/Ca, which is assumed to be primarily controlled by changes in seawater Sr/Ca (Elderfield et al. 2000; Gray and Evans 2019; Lea et al. 1999). We also measured shell Na/Ca, a newly introduced proxy to directly quantify sea surface salinities (Allen et al. 2016; Bertlich et al. 2018; Mezger et al. 2016; Wit et al. 2013). The direct relationship of foraminiferal Na/Ca to seawater salinity is highly relevant for paleo-applications, as previous approaches are either regionally limited (e.g., shell Ba/Ca), or rely on combined temperature proxies (e.g., paired shell Mg/Ca, TEX_{86} , and shell $\delta^{18}\text{O}$) to estimate sea surface salinities indirectly and qualitatively (Elderfield and Ganssen 2000; Hugué et al. 2007; Rohling and Bigg 1998; Rosenthal et al. 2000; Schouten et al. 2002). Moreover, this study presents the first insights into the Na/Ca to salinity relationship in symbiont-barren and cold-water species.

Our culture experiments are based on observations by Spindler and Dieckmann (1986), who determined that juveniles of *N. pachyderma* from surface waters are incorporated and enclosed into the sea ice during the yearly Antarctic sea

ice formation in the Weddell Sea. Foraminifers continue to live in the remaining channels and pockets, filled with sea ice brine. During the winter season lower temperatures cause further sea ice formation (e.g., $\sim -2\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ to $-15\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ at the seawater/sea ice interface) while brine channels become even narrower (Bartsch 1989; Spindler 1996). The salt continuously accumulates in the fluid, which could lead to an increase in salinity up to $\sim 160\text{--}180$ in the brine pockets or channels. Therefore, salinity and temperature are inversely correlated in sea ice (Spindler 1996). It is likely that foraminiferal calcite formed in this environment may significantly impact the fossil record due to differences in the brine composition. Moreover, the abundances of *N. pachyderma* (s) are 70 times higher per liter ice in newly formed sea ice of the Weddell Sea than in the underlying water column (Spindler and Dieckmann 1986; Dieckmann et al. 1991; Bergami et al. 2009). Numerous living juvenile foraminifers and their empty shells ($\leq 80\text{ }\mu\text{m}$) were observed in the upper parts of newly formed sea ice (5–10 cm thick). Living foraminifers being at a later life stage $> 200\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ were most abundant in the lower, older, and thicker parts of sea ice ($\geq 1\text{ m}$) close to the seawater interface (Berberich 1996; Dieckmann et al. 1991; Spindler 1996; Spindler and Dieckmann 1986). The first indication for a potential growth of *N. pachyderma* (s) specimens trapped within sea ice was provided by Berberich (1996). While the lifecycle of *N. pachyderma* (s) in sea ice is not yet well constrained, the here presented culture experiments provide new insights into the salinity tolerance of *N. pachyderma* (s) and potential effects on shell geochemistry.

Materials and methods

Environmental settings and culture experiments

Foraminifers of the planktonic species *Neogloboquadrina pachyderma* (sinistral) were collected from the Antarctic sea ice of the Weddell Sea in the austral winter of 2013 during the expedition ANT-XXIX/6 of RV Polarstern. The cruise track and sampling sites along the Weddell Gyre are presented in Fig. 1. More details of the cruise track and sampling locations are provided in the cruise report (Lemke 2014a). Living foraminifers were collected for culture experiments at three sampling stations (PS81/497, 503, 506) from sea ice brines. These foraminifers formed their chambers (before being placed in culture) most likely in the pelagic ocean close to the sea surface/sea ice interface or in less evolved sea ice brines, as the onset of yearly sea ice formation just started at the time of sampling. Surface water salinities varied marginal ($S\ 34.3 \pm 0.1$) depending on the water depth (0 to 20 m) and also with the sampling sites (Lemke 2014b; World Ocean Atlas 2013 (WOA2013); Zweng et al. 2013). Earlier studies reported sea ice brine salinities of $S\ 34.2$ to 34.4 at the water interface equal

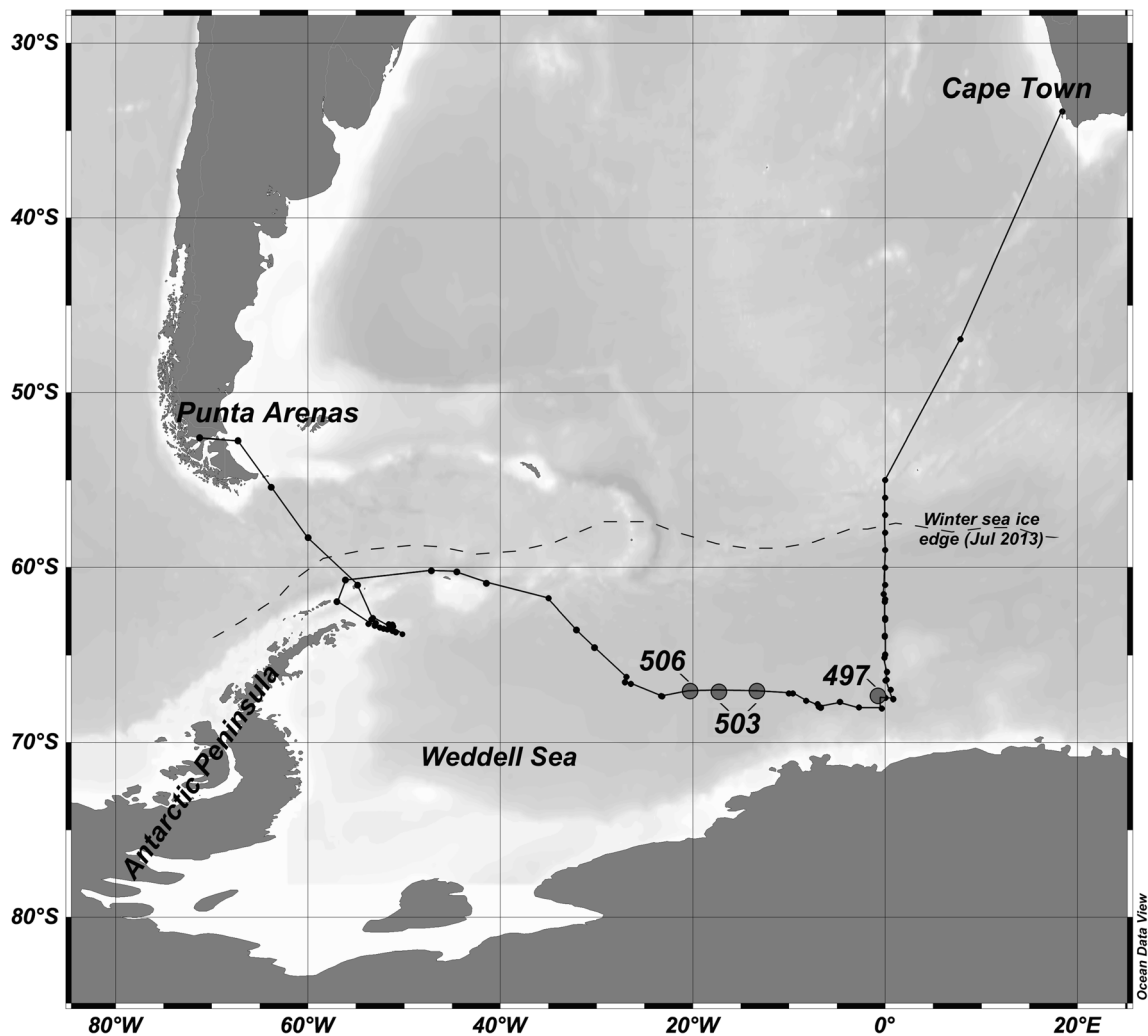


Fig. 1 Cruise track of the RV *Polarstern* expedition ANT-XXIX/6 and its respective sampling locations of sea ice derived foraminifers *Neogloboquadrina pachyderma* (sinistral) for onboard culture experiments. Dashed lines indicate the edge of sea ice cover at the time of

sampling (modified after Lemke 2014b). The map was created with Ocean Data View (Schlitzer 2015), and cruise track information was taken from the online database PANGEA (Lemke, 2014a)

to sea surface values in the austral spring/summer (Tison et al. 2008). Brine salinities could increase to S 48 with increasing sea ice thickness (60 cm; Tison et al. 2008; Berberich 1996), or up to values of S 63 observed at ~ 1.80 m of sea ice thickness (Papadimitriou et al. 2007). This allows us to present the potential range of natural salinity in which foraminifers could have grown their chambers before being placed in culture. Living foraminifers were collected from sea ice close to the ice/water interface below a sampling depth of < ~ 40 cm. Therefore, salinity uncertainties of S 34–48 are taken into account, indicated by the horizontal error bars, when comparing preceding chambers (F-1, F-2) grown in the natural environment and final newly formed chambers, labeled as F for final, in culture.

To gently extract foraminifers from the sea ice, the respective ice cores were melted in filtered seawater at -1 to -2 °C to avoid extreme temperature or salinity changes. The number

of specimens per treatment varied in relation to the number of foraminifers in the specific sea ice samples. For culture experiments, foraminifers were kept in solutions with different salinities (S) varying from S 30 to S 83 (Table 1). The different salinities were obtained either from filtered natural sea ice brines, which were extracted via a drainage system by drilling so-called sackholes into the ice (Lemke 2014b), or from artificial brines, which were produced from partial freezing of filtered seawater. Subsequently, these solutions were used as culture media and therefore not further altered, explaining the uneven salinity values (Table 1). The salinities were determined using a calibrated WTW salinometer with a precision of $\sim \pm 0.1$ (Lemke 2014b). To identify newly formed calcite shells in culture, the organic fluorescent dye calcein (Bis[N,N bis(carboxymethyl)aminomethyl]-fluorescein) was added to each experimental setup. Calcein concentrations of the culture media were determined after the cruise at the Institut für

Table 1 Overview of sampling stations, experimental settings, and the number of foraminifera that incorporated the fluorescent dye calcein during chamber calcification in culture. Salinity experiments are numbered from 1 to 10. The temperature was kept between -1 and $+2$

$^{\circ}\text{C}$ throughout all experiments. Experiments used for further trace element analysis, applying the electron microprobe technique, are shown in *italic*

Sample station PS 81/	Culture medium	Salinity	Total number of specimens #	Calcein-labeled chamber F	Whole shell calcein-labeled	Reddish* fluorescence
503	Artificial brine	46	3	–	3	–
503 Bulk1	Artificial brine	83	17	–	10	4
503 Bulk2	Artificial brine	63	2	–	2	–
506g-1	Artificial brine	76	5	–	2	–
506g-2	Natural brine	68	7	–	–	7
506g-3	Natural brine	56	15	–	–	15
506g-4	Natural brine	59	9	–	2	–
506g-5	Natural brine	47	4	–	–	–
506g-6	Natural brine	39	2	–	–	–
506g-7	<i>Diluted brine</i>	31	10	5	2	–
506g-10	<i>Natural brine</i>	69	317	95	5	16
500 (GSD 64)	Melted ice core	30	18	1	–	1

*Reddish color indicates foraminifera displaying a red fluorescence throughout the shell, possibly indicating remains of organic matter (cf. Fig. 2b, h)

Mineralogie (Universität Münster) using a Perkin Elmer Lambda 10 UV/VIS photometer at a wavelength of 476.5 nm and ranged between 9.9 and 14.4 $\mu\text{mol/L}$. Replicate analyses of samples showed a standard deviation (SD) of 0.2%. In the culture media, calcein concentrations were rather low (< 20 mg/l) and hence did not influence the viability of foraminifera or the geochemical shell signature markedly (Bernhard et al. 2004; Kurtarkar et al. 2015; Fox et al. 2018). Calcein was incorporated into cultured foraminifera and has been shown to cause fluorescence only in the newly calcified chambers and not in pre-existing parts (Dissard et al. 2009). The same study revealed that trace element incorporation in biologically and inorganically precipitated calcite is not influenced by the calcein dye. Individuals of *N. pachyderma* (sinistral) were kept for 12 weeks in the respective media and were fed with ice algae. The temperature was maintained during the experiments between -1 and $+2$ $^{\circ}\text{C}$ (Table 1).

Cleaning protocol

After termination of the culture experiments, foraminifera were separated from the culture medium by filtration with cellulose nitrate membrane filters (0.45 μm pore size) and dried. Subsequently, shells of *N. pachyderma* (s) were cleaned following the method for Mg/Ca, Sr/Ca, and U/Ca ratios of calcareous dinoflagellate cysts (Gussone et al. 2010; Gussone and Friedrich 2018). The foraminifera were cleaned with ultra-pure water (Milli-Q) to wash out particles such as algae residues, attached salt and, calcein from the culture medium. The pH value of the ultra-pure water was buffered and adjusted to

9 by the addition of a 25% ammonia solution to avoid dissolution of the carbonate shells. Subsequently, the shells were bleached with sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) solution ($\sim 1.3\%$ active chlorine) to gently remove the remnant cytoplasm. The samples were kept in the bleach for 24 h and were washed afterwards six times with ultra-pure water to remove the bleach. Finally, all cleaned foraminifera were dried to avoid partial dissolution. The extensive cleaning method for foraminifera from sediment cores after Barker et al. (2003) is not required since the culture experiments were implemented without sediment (Dissard et al. 2010).

Analytical methods

Sample selection

Individual foraminifera that formed new calcite during the culture experiments were identified by UV-light induced fluorescence using a light-optical microscope (Institut für Geologie und Paläontologie, Forschungsstelle für Paläobotanik, Universität Münster). These newly calcified chambers showed a yellow-greenish fluorescence (excitation of 470 nm and an emission of 509 nm), due to the incorporation of the fluorescent indicator calcein (Dissard et al. 2009). For the subsequent chemical analysis, we selected individual foraminifera (> 150 μm), where chamber formation or chamber wall thickening of the whole shell was clearly identified. Smaller specimens (< 150 μm) were too fragile for further analyses and chamber wall thickness was below the detection limit (< 1 μm) of the electron microprobe.

Scanning electron microscopy

A Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) was used to study morphological features of the foraminifera shells to visualize differences in the microstructural surface quality between new and pre-existing chambers and to exclude dissolution of the shells. To obtain high-resolution images of foraminiferal shells by SEM, whole individuals were fixed on adhesive carbon platelets and coated with 20 nm of carbon to reduce electric charge. The instrument JEOL JSM-6610LV SEM (Institut für Planetologie, Universität Münster) was used with an acceleration voltage of 20 kV, a working distance of 13–15 mm, a spot size of 58 μm , a beam current of 10^{-6} A under a vacuum of 3×10^{-6} mbar. The images were generated by secondary electrons.

Electron microprobe

Individual foraminifers were embedded in epoxy resin under vacuum and polished to get a single chamber cross section with a planar surface. Samples were coated with 20 nm of carbon. The measurements were conducted using the Electron Microprobe JEOL JXA 8900 Superprobe (Institut für Mineralogie, Universität Münster). The elemental analysis was performed by using an acceleration voltage of 15 kV and a beam current of 12 nA. Element concentrations of Mg, Ca, Na, and Sr were identified by quantitative wavelength dispersive X-ray analysis. Element concentrations were determined by 2 to 9 single point measurements along with the inner layer of chamber wall cross sections. The probe diameter varied between 1 and 5 μm , because the thickness of chamber wall cross sections differed between newly formed and pre-existing chambers. To obtain element distribution maps of chambers the acceleration voltage was set to 15 kV, the beam current to 15 nA with 150 ms on peak position, and a probe diameter of 1 μm . The following reference materials were used for Ca, Mg, Sr, and Na: USNM 136321 Calcite, Astimex Mineral Standard (Calcite), USNM 10057 Dolomite, NMNH R 10065 Strontianite, and 1913/451 Jadeite ST6. The precision between single measurements (given as the relative standard deviation = (standard deviation 1σ /mean value) \times 100) and accuracy (given as the relative error in %; deviation between actual measured and reference values) is equal or $\leq 1\%$ for all measured reference materials. Calcium intensities (wt%) deviating more than 10% (2σ) from the maximum Ca intensity are defined as outliers and excluded for further analysis. All Mg/Ca, Sr/Ca and Na/Ca results were tested for normal distribution applying the Shapiro-Wilk test. Corresponding p values smaller than < 0.05 (95% confidence interval) indicate that samples are not normally distributed. If measurements are normally distributed, Pearson's correlation coefficient R and its respective p values describe the significance between trace element values and experimental settings

(here salinity). Values are considered significant if p is < 0.05 and according to that R differs ($> 95\%$ confidence interval) from 0 in the range of 1 to -1 , describing a positive or negative linear relationship. To additionally prove the reproducibility and reliability of single-chamber analysis, we used the time-of-flight secondary ion mass spectrometry (ToF-SIMS). Trace element ratios resulting from ToF-SIMS analysis are presented as non-calibrated ratios in counts per second (cps) because no appropriate calibration standard existed at the time of measurements. The method and respective settings are explained in detail in Appendix 2.

Results

Chamber formation during culture experiments

Culture experiments were conducted at salinities varying between 30 and 83 (Table 1). At salinities of 30, 31, and 69, newly grown chambers of *N. pachyderma* were identified, characterized by its calcein-labeling. For the remaining experiments, calcein-labeling was only prominent along with the whole shell of *N. pachyderma* individuals (Table 1, Fig. 2). The release or presence of gametes was not observed during all experiments.

In detail, 30 % of foraminifers ($\leq 150 \mu\text{m}$) calcified one to two new chambers (F, F-1) in the culture at a salinity of 69 (experiment 506g-10) (Fig. 2). Foraminifers being at a later life-stage ($\leq 250 \mu\text{m}$), representing 1.6 % of all cultured foraminifers at S 69, are calcein-labeled throughout the whole shell. The remaining individuals of this experiment did not show any calcein-labeling or indication for growths.

Half of the foraminifers ($\leq 100 \mu\text{m}$), which have been grown in the culture at a salinity of 31 (experiment 506g-7), added new calcein-labeled chambers (F, F-1). Two larger specimens ($\leq 250 \mu\text{m}$) revealed chamber wall thickening at S 31, indicated by its fluorescence of the whole shell (Table 1). At a salinity of 30, only one individual added a new chamber. Cultured foraminifers of the remaining experiments (S 46 to S 83) revealed chamber wall thickening only, indicated by the fluorescence of the whole shell, or showed in a few cases a reddish fluorescence (Table 1, Fig. 2).

With respect to the foraminiferal surface structure, secondary electron images revealed differences between newly added chambers in culture and those calcified prior to the experiments (Fig. 3). Newly calcified chambers are characterized by a smooth surface with rarely scattered crystals in contrast to previously formed chambers grown in the natural environment (Fig. 3f, g). Older chambers are more heavily encrusted and covered by dense and coarser calcite crystals $\leq 1\text{--}2 \mu\text{m}$. Crystals vary in size and are not homogeneously distributed at the chambers. Further observations show that some newly grown chambers are irregular or oversized (Fig.

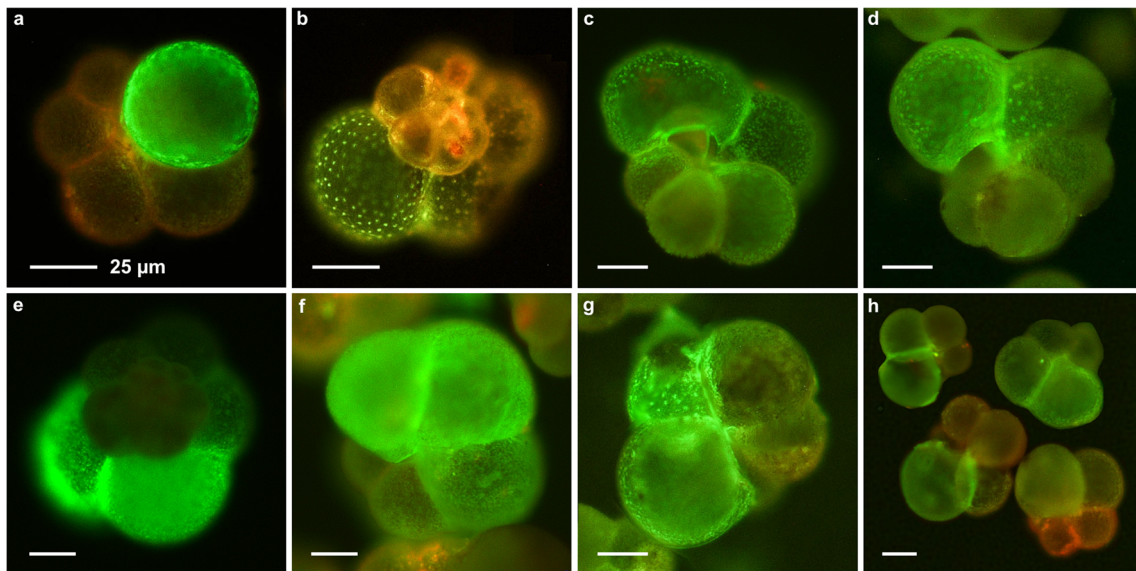


Fig. 2 Examples of cultured *N. pachyderma* (s) specimens, showing new calcified chambers in culture, indicated by the greenish fluorescence of the calcein dye under UV-light in the final chamber F (**a**, **b**, **d**, **h**) and its penultimate F-1 (**e**, **g**, **h**), F-2 (**f**). The white scale bar indicates 25 μm for

all images. Images (**a–d**) and (**f–h**) show foraminifers from culture experiments at a salinity of 69, and image (**e**) gives an example of chamber formation at a salinity of 31. Image (**c**) presents one foraminifer, showing a greenish fluorescence throughout the whole shell

3c, **d**). Cultured foraminifers marked by a calcein-labeling of the whole shell did not reveal any differences of the outer surface structure between chambers, whereas chamber wall cross sections exposed clear differences in the calcite structure of the inner and outer calcite layer (Fig. **3a**, **b**, **e**).

Trace element incorporation into *N. pachyderma* shells

Mg/Ca

For *N. pachyderma* specimens that were cultured at a salinity of 69, average Mg/Ca values vary from 1.14 to 2.10 mmol/mol between newly calcified chambers, presenting a standard deviation of 30.3 % (Table 2, Fig. 5). Electron microprobe single spot measurements for single chambers are shown in the Appendix 1 (Table 3, Fig. 8). Average Mg/Ca values of calcified chambers before the experiments vary from 0.27 to 1.86 mmol/mol (SD: 39.3 %) between specimens (Table 2). Single spot Mg/Ca values show a higher variability within newly grown chambers in the culture at S 69, varying between 0.16 and 6.43 mmol/mol, compared with prior chambers (F-1, F-2: 0.24 and 3.76 mmol/mol; Appendix 1, Table 3).

Nevertheless, Mg/Ca values are not normal-distributed for the culture experiments at S 69 (Shapiro-Wilk test: $p = 0.002$, $W = 0.63$). Accordingly, no significant Mg/Ca trend ($p = 0.65$, $R = 0.12$ after Pearson's linear correlation) with increasing salinities is observed between chambers grown in the culture at S 31 and S 69, including values of naturally grown ones before culture at surface waters of \sim S 34 (or at the sea ice interface: S 34–48). However, the data tentatively suggest a

certain tendency, which should not be disregarded, as Mg/Ca values are high at S 69 and clearly exceed the variability of chambers grown before to the start of the experiment (cf. Figs. 5 and 6). Shell Mg/Ca results are qualitatively supported by additional measurements applying the ToF-SIMS. Similar trends between single chambers related to a salinity increase are apparent from the ToF-SIMS (Fig. 9) and the electron microprobe analysis (Fig. 6). Considering the element distribution within new calcified chambers in culture, prominent Mg/Ca banding is obvious, whereas Na/Ca and Sr/Ca ratios are less pronounced, showing no banding throughout chamber wall cross sections (Fig. 4).

Sr/Ca

Average Sr/Ca ratios vary between 1.38 and 1.89 mmol/mol (SD: 12.5 %) for newly grown chambers (F) at S 69. For pre-culture grown chambers, ratios vary between 1.15 and 1.86 mmol/mol (SD: 14.5 %) (Table 2, Fig. 5). The intra-shell variability of Sr/Ca values within newly formed chambers is in agreement with pre-existing chambers. These single spot measurements are listed in the Appendix 1 (Table 3). Further, Sr/Ca ratios are rather homogeneously distributed throughout new calcified chambers (Fig. 4) and are normally distributed for all experiments (Shapiro-Wilk test: $p = 0.89$, $W = 0.97$). A slight, but not statistically significant positive correlation is obvious for Sr/Ca ratios with increasing salinities ($p = 0.12$, $R = 0.42$) from \sim S 34 at surface waters (or S 34–48 at the sea ice interface) in the natural environment to S 69 in culture, shown in Fig. 5. Results of cultured foraminifers at S 31 exhibit higher Sr/Ca values (1.87 ± 0.15 mmol/mol in chamber

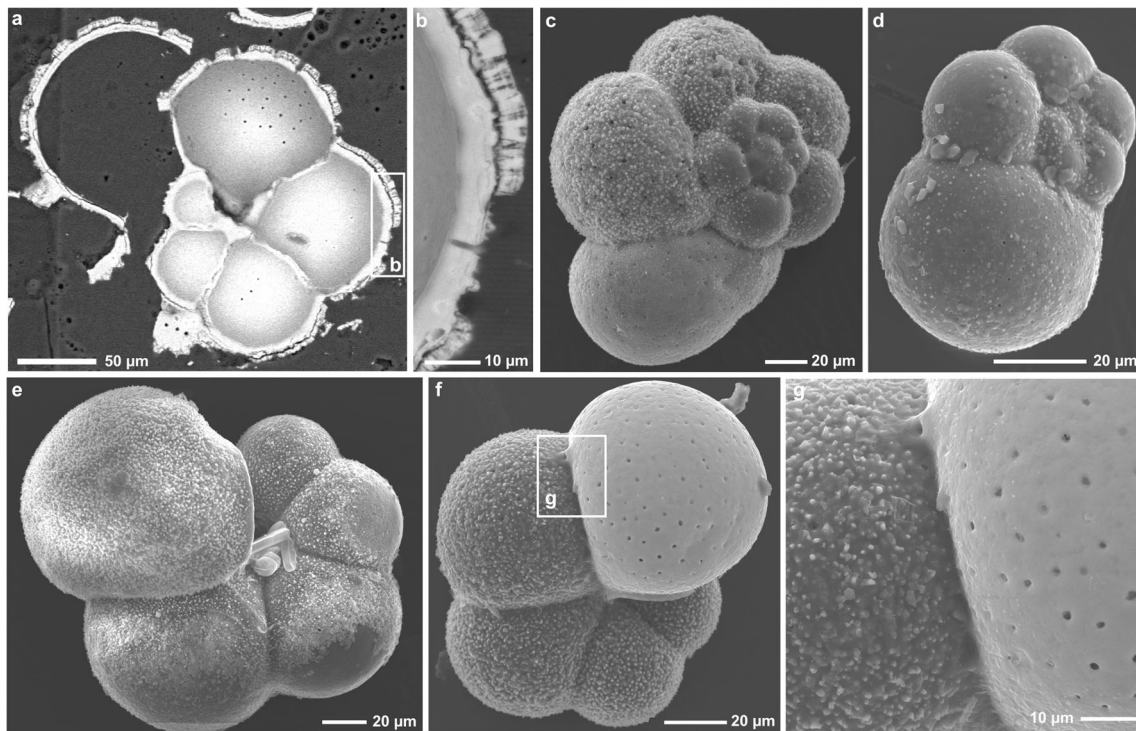


Fig. 3 Examples of cultured *N. pachyderma* (s) secondary electron images applying the scanning electron microscopy. **a** Chamber wall cross section of a cultured individual, showing chamber wall thickening over pre-grown chambers in the culture at a salinity of 31, indicated by its greenish fluorescence (Fig. 2). Differences between the inner and outer calcite layer are clearly visible by zooming in **(b)**, whereas the surface

structure between chambers does not differ **(e)**. **c**, **f** Both foraminifers calcified a new chamber F in culture (calcein-labeled) at a salinity of 69, revealing a planar surface without crystals **(g)**. **d** Smaller, juvenile individuals > 40 µm mostly formed an irregular, oversized chamber F in culture. Compared with larger sub-adult specimens **(e)**, the surface of the whole shell is not yet stabilized by coarser crystals

Table 2 Average element values for cultured *N. pachyderma* (s) are shown for each chamber (F) newly grown in the culture at different salinities and a constant temperature (− 1 to + 2 °C). Chambers F-1 and F-2 have been grown prior to the culture experiments most likely at the sea surface (S 34) or at the sea ice interface (S 34–48) (WOA2013; Lemke

2014b; Tison et al. 2008). Average element/Ca uncertainties are based on the standard error of the mean ± SE (σ/\sqrt{n}). Measurements were conducted by the electron microprobe analyses. The number of single measurements is given as nm and corresponding single values are presented in the Appendix 1 (Table 3)

Specimen no.	Chamber	nm	Salinity	Na/Ca (mmol/mol)	SE	Mg/Ca (mmol/mol)	SE	Sr/Ca (mmol/mol)	SE
1	F	7	69	8.08	0.63	2.10	0.54	1.61	0.16
1	F-1	8	34	5.65	0.56	1.09	0.20	1.45	0.12
1	F-2	4	34	5.91	0.52	1.09	0.19	1.41	0.25
2	F	3	69	9.26	1.49	1.14	0.10	1.89	0.18
2	F-1	4	34	8.18	1.18	1.10	0.46	1.26	0.20
2	F-2	5	34	8.13	0.80	1.27	0.30	1.49	0.28
3	F	8	69	9.17	0.57	1.15	0.32	1.79	0.15
3	F-1	3	34	7.16	0.76	0.27	0.10	1.22	0.09
3	F-2	6	34	6.33	0.84	0.81	0.19	1.15	0.12
4	F	26	69	8.23	0.43	1.20	0.12	1.38	0.10
4	F-1	23	34	6.83	0.31	1.70	0.14	1.44	0.09
5	F	5	69	6.61	1.18	1.23	0.29	1.52	0.44
5	F-1	5	34	6.34	0.78	1.86	1.15	1.65	0.18
6	F	9	31	5.88	0.30	1.24	0.14	1.87	0.18
6	F-1	10	34	8.46	0.75	1.77	0.20	1.86	0.10
6	F-2	11	34	7.34	0.51	1.59	0.13	1.54	0.09

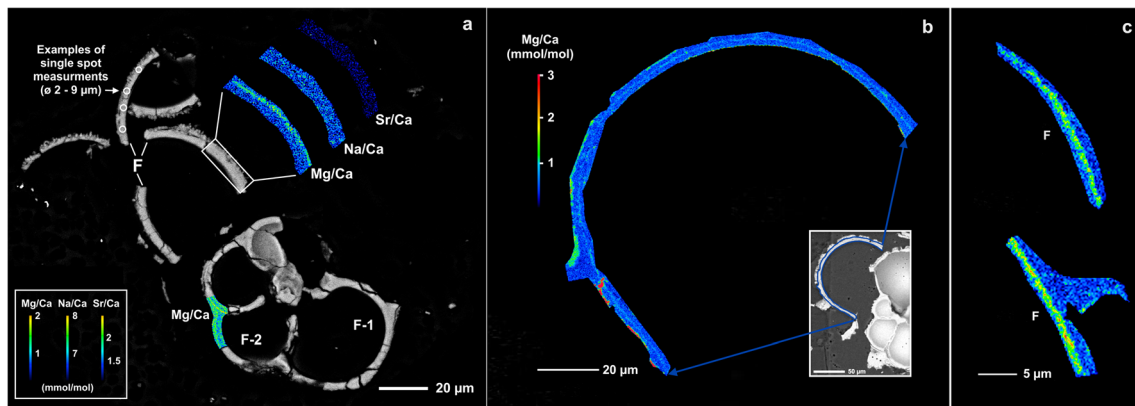


Fig. 4 **a** Example of a secondary electron image showing the chamber wall cross section from one cultured *N. pachyderma* (s) specimen at a salinity of 69 and its respective element distribution maps generated with the electron microprobe. Single spot measurements (white circles) were used for elemental analysis, whereas the spot size varied from 1 to 5 μm in size, dependent on the chamber thickness of newly grown chambers (F) in culture. Chambers F-1 and F-2 have been grown presumably in the natural environment before the onset of experiments. For the element analysis, two to six single spots were set at each chamber, presented in

Fig. 5 as light gray dots. No distribution patterns are obvious for Na/Ca and Sr/Ca values throughout chamber wall cross sections, whereas Mg/Ca banding is clearly noticeable. **b** Mg/Ca distribution map of one foraminifer that showed chamber wall thickening during the experiments at a salinity of 31. Chamber F shows one distinct band, enriched in Mg/Ca, in the vicinity to a primary organic sheet, visible by cracks at secondary electron images (Fig. 3a, b). **c** Example of Mg/Ca distribution maps from chambers grown in culture at a salinity of 69, showing clear differences in Mg/Ca values between the inner and outer calcite layer

F) than pre-existing chambers of the same individual (\sim S 34, 1.54–1.86 mmol/mol), but do not differ from results of experiments at S 69 (Table 2). Results of ToF-SIMS analysis confirm the higher Sr/Ca values at apparently lower salinity of 31 (Appendix 2).

Na/Ca

Average Na/Ca ratios for each newly grown chamber in culture (S 69) are within the range of 6.61–9.26 mmol/mol (SD: 12.9 %), while Na/Ca ratios are lower (5.65–8.18 mmol/mol, SD: 14.1 %) in pre-existing chambers (F-1, F-2) (Table 2, Fig. 5). All Na/Ca values of single spot measurements are shown in the Appendix (Table 3). In all analyzed specimens, average Na/Ca values were higher in the final chambers than in the pre-experimentally calcified ones. Also, Na/Ca values are normally distributed for all experiments (Shapiro-Wilk test: $p = 0.38$, $W = 0.89$) and show a slight, but statistically significant positive correlation ($p = 0.02$, $R = 0.55$) between chambers grown in the culture at S 31 and S 69, including naturally grown chambers in the pelagic ocean at the sea surface (\sim S 34) or the sea ice interface (S 34–48). This trend also holds for additional ToF-SIMS measurements (Appendix 2). Compared with the intra-shell variability of Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca, Na/Ca ratios exhibit high variations between 3.30 and 11.49 mmol/mol within single chambers for S 69, which is in agreement to preceding chambers: 3.47–10.96 mmol/mol (Fig. 5). Nevertheless, such high Na/Ca values are rare and isolated. Considering Na/Ca distribution maps, no banding occurs within chamber wall cross sections and ratios are homogeneously distributed similarly to Sr/Ca (Fig. 4). Results for

cultured foraminifers at a salinity of 31 exhibits the lowest average Na/Ca values of 5.88 ± 0.30 mmol/mol in chamber F (Fig. 5).

Discussion

Chamber calcification of *N. pachyderma* in a sea ice environment

This study clearly shows the ability of juvenile to pre-adult *N. pachyderma* specimens to add new chambers under extreme culture conditions (S 30–69), related to the chemical composition of natural sea ice brines. Chamber wall thickening was even observed up to salinities of S 83 in culture. With regard to paleoenvironmental reconstructions, foraminiferal calcification within sea ice brines has the potential to change the geochemical shell signature (cf. sec. 4.3).

Salinity tolerance limits of planktonic foraminifers have rarely been recorded so far. The study of Bijma et al. (1990) described the response of cultured spinose planktonic foraminifera from mid-latitudes to extreme salinity changes, at which *Trilobatus sacculifer* and *Globigerinoides ruber* show the ability to calcify and reproduce until salinities of 47 to 49, respectively. Such high salinities would not be expected in the paleo-record at the latitudes where these species are found. However, *N. pachyderma* is an exception due to its occurrence at high latitudes where sea ice can be found. Reproduction of *N. pachyderma* mainly occurs in autumn, which affects juvenile to sub-adult ($< 200 \mu\text{m}$) foraminifers in the way that these are most abundant in surface waters (0–200 m) at the onset of

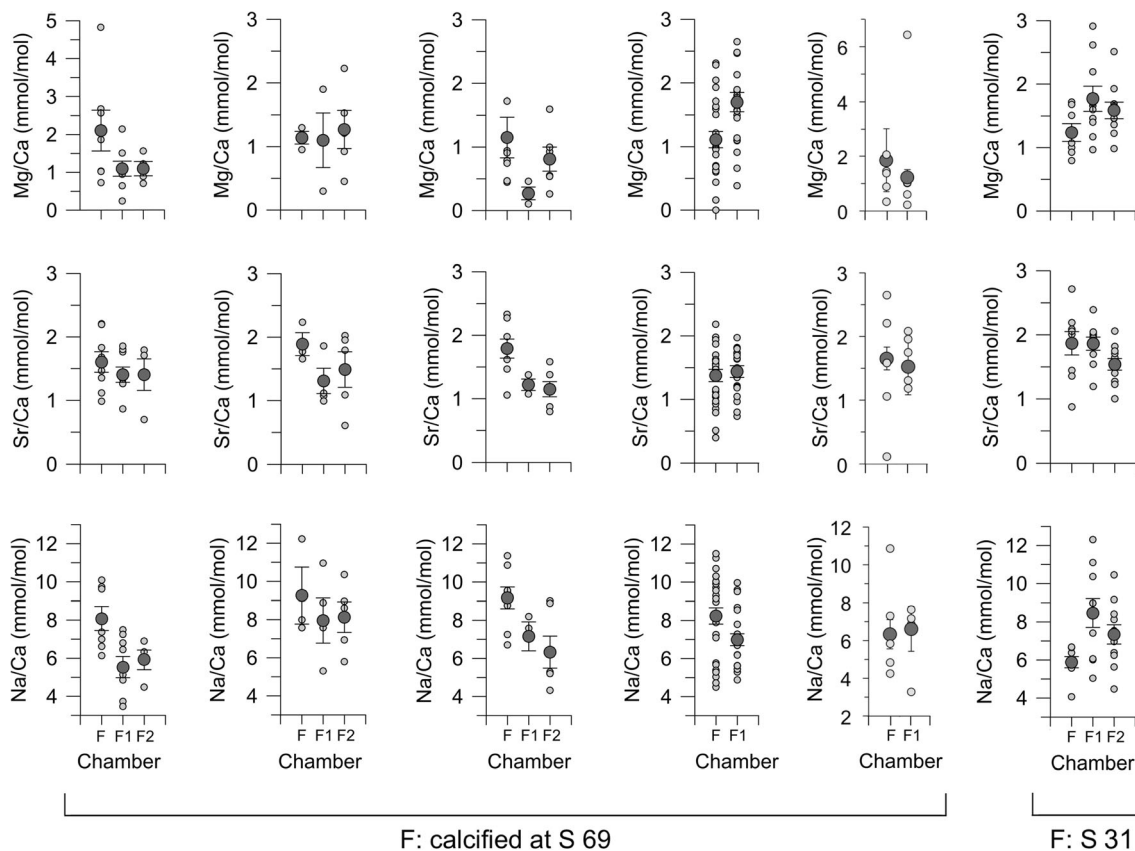


Fig. 5 Average Mg/Ca, Sr/Ca, and Na/Ca results of cultured *N. pachyderma* (s) measured by single spot analysis applying the electron microprobe technique (cf. Table 2, Appendix—Table 3). Each plot represents one foraminifer specimen. Small light gray dots show one single spot measurement on chamber wall cross sections for one foraminifer. Dark gray dots show the average value for one chamber (F, F-1, F-2) and vertical error bars mark the standard error of the mean (σ/\sqrt{n}). Chosen

foraminifers have shown a greenish fluorescence under UV-light and thus, incorporated the fluorescent dye calcein during culture experiments while forming a new chamber (F) under controlled conditions. Penultimate chambers (F-1, F-2) are expected to be formed in the natural habitat, either at the sea surface (S 34) or at the sea ice interface (S 34-48) (WOA2013; Lemke 2014b; Tison et al. 2008)

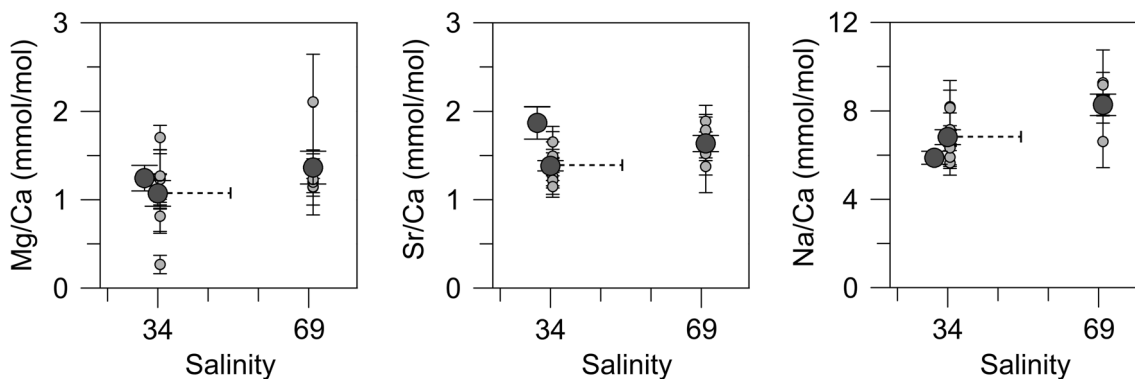


Fig. 6 Average trace element values of cultured *N. pachyderma* (s) specimens that have formed new chambers in the culture at salinities of 31 and 69. Each small light gray dot shows average Mg/Ca, Sr/Ca, and Na/Ca ratios for one foraminifer out of single spot measurements applying the electron microprobe technique. Large dark gray dots show the average of all analyzed foraminifers at certain salinities. Vertical error bars are given as the standard error of the mean (σ/\sqrt{n}). Element ratios presented for a

salinity of S 34 result from naturally grown chambers (F-1, F-2) prior to culture experiments. Chambers were potentially calcified at sea surface waters at S 34 or at the sea ice interface (S 34-48) (WOA2013; Lemke 2014b; Tison et al. 2008). The dashed horizontal error bar marks the potential salinity range of pre-grown chambers. Single values are shown in Table 2

yearly sea ice formation in the Weddell Sea (Spindler and Dieckmann 1986). Individuals are easily incorporated into the new freezing ice and continue living in highly saline brine channels. Foraminiferal abundances in the ice are around two orders of magnitude higher per liter than in the underlying water column (Dieckmann et al. 1991). Although the study of Spindler and Dieckmann (1986) could show that *N. pachyderma* is alive and actively feeding within the sea ice, also during winter months (Spindler 1996), there is not yet evidence that *N. pachyderma* can undergo gametogenesis and can reproduce within the ice. Culture experiments by Spindler (1996) showed that *N. pachyderma* specimens were able to add chambers until a salinity of 58 and survived for a few days at a salinity of 82 at $-1\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. These observations are confirmed by our culture experiments, even extending chamber wall thickening at higher salinities up to 83. Chamber thickening is probably related to the ontogenetic development as no gametes or reproduction signs were visible throughout the experiments. Chamber formation within our culture experiments is also in agreement with earlier observations by Berberich (1996), indicating that the shell size of foraminifera probably increases with increasing sea ice age (inferred from its diameter). Berberich (1996) hypothesized that foraminifera can migrate through brine channels back to the free water column if they reach their respective shell size for reproduction ($> \sim 200\text{ }\mu\text{m}$). Foraminifera, however, only showed pre-reproduction signs in the sea ice (Berberich 1996). On this basis, our results were able to show that foraminifera could still calcify after abrupt salinity changes within a short period of time, when specimens were placed from the natural habitat ($\sim S\ 34$) into a culture medium with a salinity up to 83. However, chamber formation could be inhibited as we observed numerous individuals with unshaped and extremely large, elongated final chambers that exceeded the previously precipitated chambers by 2 to 3 times. This observation is contrary to that of Spindler (1996), reporting enhanced occurrences of smaller chambers (kummerforms) at higher salinities. Unshaped chambers might be an indicator of ecological stress in the culture. Nevertheless, indications of irregular chamber growth or the consideration of structural differences between the final calcified chamber at high salinities to preceding chambers, calcified in the pelagic ocean, can be used to identify possibly individual foraminifera from a sea ice environment. This suggestion needs further elaboration in future studies and would require the comparison of living foraminifera collected from sea ice to foraminifera from sediment traps or core-tops.

Besides the ability for calcification in an extreme environment, the survival of foraminifera in sea ice is further limited and strongly dependent on its ice structure, temperature, sea ice freezing or melting, food availability, and food acceptance (Spindler and Dieckmann 1986; Tison et al. 2002, 2008; Papadimitriou et al. 2007). Foraminifera mainly feed on

diatoms, which are most abundant and able to reproduce within the ice at salinities between 34 to 150, and temperatures below $-1\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, whereby the temperature is not the critical factor (Buinitsky 1977; Spindler and Dieckmann 1986; Bartsch 1989). Although sufficient food sources would be available, culture experiments of Spindler (1996) showed that *N. pachyderma* is not able to feed anymore above salinities of 73 due to the limitation of their pseudopodia activity. These observations would imply that foraminifera are possibly not able to move or feed again and would starve after a certain period of time in the ice (Spindler 1996). Pseudopodia networks are also known to actively support calcification processes (Erez 2003; Bentov and Erez 2005). Nevertheless, our experiments could even prove chamber wall thickening at salinities of 83. We would hypothesize that other external or internal factors rather than the limitation of pseudopodia activity alone are responsible for ongoing foraminifer calcification processes within conditions expected in sea ice brines. The study by Papadimitriou et al. (2007) indicated that the chemical composition of sea ice brines is exposed to elevated pH values (8.4–8.8), dissolved oxygen, and concentrations of $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ compared with the underlying seawater in the austral summer/autumn, but depleted in dissolved carbon dioxide and total dissolved inorganic carbon. Taking this into account, earlier studies suggested that foraminifera can transform CO_2 or HCO_3^{2-} to CO_3^{2-} at higher pH values at the site of calcification, which further promotes calcite precipitation (Erez 2003; Bentov et al. 2009; De Nooijer et al. 2009, 2014; Toyofuku et al. 2017). Hence, different chemical brine compositions compared with those of seawater could change calcification processes.

Estimating the effect of salinity on element incorporation into foraminiferal calcite

Mg/Ca

Our Mg/Ca results ($1.07\text{ mmol/mol} \pm 0.15\text{ SE}$) of *N. pachyderma* (s) chambers that have been grown in the natural environment before the onset of culture experiments are broadly consistent with Mg/Ca results of previous studies (e.g., Hendry et al. 2009; Jonkers et al. 2013; Meland et al. 2006). The consistency of Mg/Ca values between living foraminifera (collected for our culture experiments) and specimens from sediment traps strengthens the reliability of our electron microprobe based single foraminifer analysis. However, Mg/Ca values of newly calcified chambers in the culture at salinities of 69 reveal on average higher Mg/Ca values ($1.36\text{ mmol/mol} \pm 0.27\text{ SE}$) compared with values from pre-culture grown chambers and the fossil record. Illustrated by one example, specimens of *N. pachyderma* collected from sediment traps in the West Antarctic Peninsula in the vicinity to our study area exhibit Mg/Ca values of 0.77–1.06 mmol/

mol throughout the year with a seasonal peak and highest Mg/Ca values during the austral winter (Hendry et al. 2009). The observed differences between Mg/Ca results from cultured foraminifers at high salinities and specimens from sediment traps would imply that the chemical composition of the culture medium, similar to that of sea ice brines, significantly affects the geochemical signature of foraminifera (Figs. 4c and 6). Therefore, we discuss in the following potential external and internal controls on Mg/Ca incorporation into foraminiferal calcite.

It has been previously shown that foraminiferal Mg/Ca is primarily controlled by ocean temperature, resulting in an exponential increase by ~ 8 to 10% per degree Celsius for *Trilobatus sacculifer*, *Globigerina bulloides*, *Orbulina universa*, and *Neogloboquadrina dutertrei* and 6.0–6.7%/°C for *G. ruber* (w) (Anand et al. 2003; Dueñas-Bohórquez et al. 2009; Elderfield and Ganssen 2000; Gray et al. 2018; Gray and Evans 2019; Hönisch et al. 2013; Kisakürek et al. 2008; Lea et al. 1999; Nürnberg et al. 1996; Regenberg et al. 2009; Russell et al. 2004). Due to the exponential nature of the temperature dependence, the foraminiferal Mg/Ca variability at high latitudes is relatively small. Assuming that *N. pachyderma* (s) is calcifying within the sea ice brine, chemical parameters other than temperature are changing in the brine compared with the seawater and, hence, could additionally influence the trace element uptake into calcite shells. Increasing seawater salinity enhances Mg/Ca incorporation by 2–5 % per S unit, known from culture experiments (Arbuszewski et al. 2010; Dueñas-Bohórquez et al. 2009; Gray et al. 2018; Hönisch et al. 2013; Kisakürek et al. 2008; Lea et al. 1999; Nürnberg et al. 1996). A salinity change of 4 units would introduce a temperature change of ± 1 °C for Mg/Ca paleotemperature reconstructions (Dueñas-Bohórquez et al. 2009). Increasing seawater pH and related $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$ would affect shell Mg/Ca towards decreasing ratios by – 5 to – 9% per 0.1 pH unit increase below a pH < 8.2–8.7 (Allen et al. 2016; Evans et al. 2016; Gray et al. 2018; Kisakürek et al. 2008; Lea et al. 1999; Regenberg et al. 2006; Russell et al. 2004; Spero et al. 2015). It was hypothesized for a glacial scenario with a postulated increase in salinity by 1 unit and in pH by 0.2 (Sanyal et al. 1996) that the opposite effect of both parameters on shell Mg/Ca partially cancel each other (Lea et al. 1999; Nürnberg 2000). However, brine salinities could exceed values above S 150 (Berberich 1996), whereas maximum pH values of ~ 8.4–8.8 are reported for first-year sea ice brines (Papadimitriou et al. 2007). Therefore, we assume that salinity is one of the driving parameters over pH and temperature, controlling Mg incorporation into foraminiferal calcite within brine channels of sea ice. To underline this assumption, average Mg/Ca values (S 69) of our study are higher than those reported by Elderfield and Ganssen (2000) and do not fit on the exponential line, which is based on the Mg/Ca to calcification temperature

relationship. As the temperature was held constant throughout our experiments, Mg/Ca variations cannot solely be explained by seasonal temperature variations (Eggins et al. 2003, 2004; Sadekov et al. 2005).

Considering the Mg/Ca variability within *N. pachyderma* shells, inter-shell Mg/Ca variations are ~ 30.3 % for newly grown chambers in culture (S 69), matching earlier findings for planktonic foraminifers (Sadekov et al. 2005; Dueñas-Bohórquez et al. 2011). The intra-shell variability of single spot Mg/Ca values within one foraminifer (0.1–6.4 mmol/mol) is an order of magnitude higher. Such high Mg/Ca intra-shell variations (0.1–7 mmol/mol) were also observed in the study by Jonkers et al. (2016) for *N. pachyderma* of the subpolar North Atlantic. While symbiont-bearing species tend to exhibit cyclic banding, alternating in high- and low Mg/Ca bands, less Mg/Ca variations throughout the entire shell, as well as less and broader Mg/Ca bands are observed for symbiont-barren species (Sadekov et al. 2005), which is in agreement with our results (Fig. 4b, c). However, high intra-shell variations need further explanations, as cultured foraminifers grow their chambers under controlled conditions with minor changes in temperature and constant salinity conditions. Further, foraminifers were not able to migrate in their culture jar similar to conditions in the sea ice with limited space, which would exclude vertical habitat migration and thus changes in calcification temperature by increasing water depth (Eggins et al. 2003; Sadekov et al. 2005; Spero et al. 2015). Therefore, we would rather suggest a strong biological control on Mg incorporation explaining the high intra-shell variability, which is in agreement with observations from Jonkers et al. (2016), who further related Mg/Ca banding to chamber formation processes in *N. pachyderma*.

Sr/Ca

Our Sr/Ca results (~ 1.37 mmol/mol ± 0.05 SE) of chambers grown in situ before the onset of culture experiments are in agreement with previous findings: Sr/Ca results of *N. pachyderma* (s) specimens collected from sediment traps in the West Antarctic Peninsula close to our sampling locality vary only on small scale throughout the year (1.37–1.40 mmol/mol) with peak values during the period of sea ice cover (Hendry et al. 2009). In addition, core-top samples from the North Atlantic revealed similar Sr/Ca values of 1.39 ± 0.02 mmol/mol for *N. pachyderma* (Elderfield et al. 2000). Nevertheless, average Sr/Ca values (1.66 ± 0.09 mmol/mol) of newly calcified chambers in the culture at a salinity of 69, exceed all published values derived from specimens from the open ocean. Thus, Sr uptake into calcite shells cannot be solely dependent on seawater Sr/Ca (Elderfield et al. 2000). Previous studies have demonstrated that seawater calcite saturation influences calcite precipitation rates in foraminifers,

which in turn also controls the Sr incorporation into calcite shells (Lea et al. 1999; Kisakürek et al. 2008; Dueñas-Bohórquez et al. 2009). This is also known from inorganic calcite growth experiments, demonstrating higher Sr incorporation and an increasing partition coefficient D_{Sr} with enhanced calcite precipitation rates (e.g., Lorens 1981; Busenberg and Plummer 1989; Nehrke et al. 2007; Tang et al. 2008). Other environmental factors as temperature, salinity, or pH could further influence the calcite saturation state and growth rates indirectly, but only to a certain extent as these parameters co-vary (Lea et al. 1999; Elderfield et al. 2002; Kisakürek et al. 2008; Dissard et al. 2010). Further, culture and core-top studies reveal that Sr/Ca incorporation increases slightly with temperature (0.4–0.8%/°C), salinity (0.8–1.3 ± 0.3%/S, salinity interval: 20–40), and pH (0.5–1.0% per 0.1 pH unit) for the planktic species *G. bulloides*, *O. universa*, *T. sacculifer*, *G. ruber* (white), and the benthic *Ammonia tepida* (Lea et al. 1999; Elderfield et al. 2000; Russell et al. 2004; Mortyn et al. 2005; Kisakürek et al. 2008; Dueñas-Bohórquez et al. 2009; Dissard et al. 2010). Although temperature and salinity have an insignificant effect on Sr incorporation in the aforementioned species (Elderfield et al. 2002; Kisakürek et al. 2008; Dueñas-Bohórquez et al. 2009), this effect should not be disregarded in extreme environments as our high salinity study shows. Moreover, according to our culture experiments, shell Sr/Ca is more sensitive to abrupt salinity changes in colder waters than expected for Mg/Ca values (Fig. 6).

Differences in element incorporation (e.g., Mg^{2+} , Sr^{2+}) into foraminiferal calcite could be attributed to different pathways of ions to the site of calcification and due to differences in ionic strength, surface charge density, and ionic radii between trace elements despite substitution for Ca^{2+} in the $CaCO_3$

lattice. While Mg^{2+} ions (0.72 Å) are smaller and Sr^{2+} ions (1.13 Å) are larger than Ca^{2+} ions (0.99 Å), these ions substitute for Ca at different sites in the calcite lattice (De Nooijer et al. 2014; Yoshimura et al. 2017). The partition coefficient for Sr (D_{Sr}) in foraminiferal calcite is only 3 to 4 times higher than for inorganic calcite (~0.04), whereby Mg^{2+} incorporation is strongly biologically controlled and 5 to 10 times lower than in inorganic precipitated calcite (0.01) (Lorens 1981; Busenberg and Plummer 1989; Elderfield et al. 2002; Erez 2003; Nehrke et al. 2007; Dissard et al. 2010). The homogeneous distribution of Sr/Ca in *N. pachyderma* compared with Mg/Ca, and the absence of cyclic banding throughout chamber wall cross sections (Fig. 4a) support the assumption that Sr^{2+} is most likely passively transported to the foraminiferal site of calcification (Lea et al. 1999; Elderfield et al. 2002; Kisakürek et al. 2008; Dissard et al. 2010).

Na/Ca

Average Na/Ca values in cultured *N. pachyderma* (s) show a positive correlation with increasing salinities up to 69 (Fig. 6) and are within the range of previous studies, summarized in Fig. 7. Na/Ca values of pre-grown chambers (*N. pachyderma*) before culturing follow the same slope of the regression line (~ + 0.1 mmol/mol per salinity unit) and are in agreement with Na/Ca values of the symbiont-bearing species *G. ruber* (culture: Allen et al., 2016; core-tops: Mezger et al., 2018), and the benthic symbiont-barren species *Ammonia tepida* (Wit et al. 2013; Geerken et al. 2018) in the salinity interval of 30 to 40 (Fig. 7). Moreover, cultured *N. pachyderma* (s) specimens exhibit a lower inter-shell variability (SD: 12.9 %) of new calcified chambers (S 69) in comparison to Mg/Ca variations (SD: 30.3 %) between single foraminifers. Such

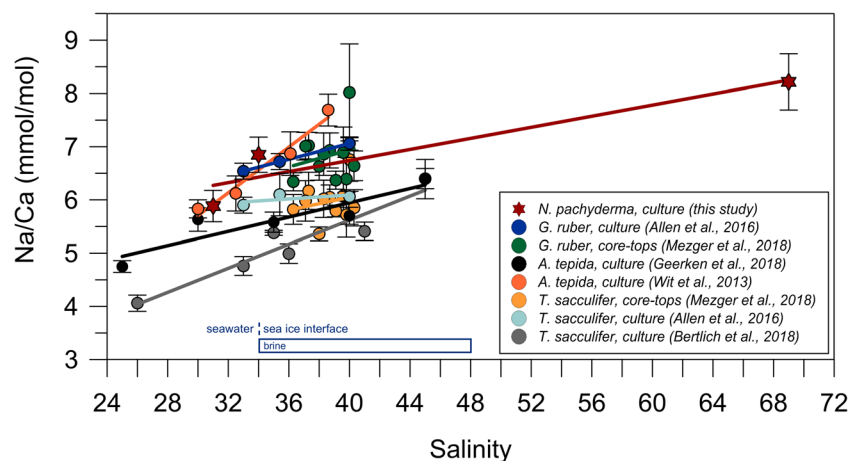


Fig. 7 Comparison of published foraminiferal Na/Ca data sets in relation to seawater salinity. Average Na/Ca values of cultured *N. pachyderma* (our study) are in agreement with previous findings and follow the same slope of regression line as shown for cultured *G. ruber* (pink) (Allen et al. 2016) and *G. ruber* (white) from core-top sediment samples (Mezger et al. 2018). Moreover, results of our study agree with Na/Ca values of

the benthic foraminifer *A. tepida* (salinity ≤ 36; Wit et al. 2013), and show the same trend as *A. tepida* (Geerken et al., 2018) with a Na/Ca offset of 1 mmol/mol to our results. The blue horizontal error bar indicates the potential salinity range of pre-grown chambers (our study) at the seawater/sea ice interface before foraminifers were placed in culture (S 34–48; WOA2013; Lemke 2014b; Tison et al. 2008)

comparatively low Na/Ca variability matches earlier findings by Bertlich et al. (2018) and Mezger et al. (2016) for symbiont-bearing species.

These new insights confirm the robustness of shell Na/Ca as a potential proxy for sea surface salinities at higher latitudes. Although previous studies could show an insignificant temperature effect between a range of 19.5 °C to 29.5 °C on Na incorporation into symbiont-bearing species (Allen et al. 2016; Mezger et al. 2016; Bertlich et al. 2018), this needs further research due to the fact that *N. pachyderma* (s) can tolerate temperatures to -4 °C (Spindler, 1996). In addition, the Na incorporation into symbiont-bearing species (*G. ruber*, *T. sacculifer*; Allen et al. 2016) is not significantly influenced by changes in the carbonate chemistry (pH, $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$, dissolved inorganic carbon), but has to be confirmed again for symbiont-barren species in a sea ice environment. Nevertheless, assuming salinity as the dominant controlling factor on Na incorporation in *N. pachyderma*, average Na/Ca values of individuals from the austral winter, trapped in sea ice, could thus reveal higher Na/Ca values. Such higher Na/Ca values in a sea ice environment could influence the interpretation of fossil records, which is further discussed in the following section.

Implications for paleoenvironmental reconstructions

Based on our culture experiments, we hypothesize that elevated shell Mg/Ca, Sr/Ca and Na/Ca values in *N. pachyderma* (s) specimens from high latitudes could result from sea ice formation at the time of calcification. We further suggest the application of a multi-proxy approach including the measurement of the foraminiferal oxygen isotopic signature. In the following we present evidence from the literature, underlining our observations and suggestions for a multi-proxy application.

The salinity of sea ice brines differs significantly from the pelagic ocean. Thus, chamber calcification within sea ice brine channels would carry a distinct proxy signature. The number of juvenile foraminifers trapped in the sea ice during its yearly formation is around 70 times higher per liter than in the underlying water column (Dieckmann et al. 1991). Consequently, under certain conditions, sea ice derived foraminifers may significantly contribute to the sedimentary record and thus potentially influence paleoenvironmental reconstructions.

This hypothesis is supported by shell Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca ratios from foraminifers collected from core-top sediments (e.g., Eggins et al. 2003; Meland et al. 2006; Hendry et al. 2009). Mg/Ca results of *N. pachyderma* from the Nordic Seas (core-tops; Meland et al., 2006) do not fit to the Mg/Ca to calcification temperature calibration curves provided by Nürnberg (1995) and Elderfield and Ganssen (2000), being ~ 0.4 mmol/mol higher. Elevated values were attributed to

changes in the seawater chemistry ($[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$, pH and/or alkalinity, salinity) at times of partial sea ice cover during the Last Glacial Maximum (Meland et al. 2006), supporting our findings from high saline culture experiments. Moreover, Eggins et al. (2003) reported anomalously high Mg/Ca values in *N. pachyderma* (s) from Prydz Bay, which in turn would result in unrealistic high calcification temperatures, even though this area was probably covered by sea ice during the Last Glacial Maximum at around 18,000 years before present. Eggins et al. (2003) proposed as one possible explanation that salinity changes are primarily controlling element incorporation over temperature.

In addition, the combination of planktonic foraminiferal Sr/Ca and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ allows to predict changes in seawater Sr/Ca over glacial-interglacial cycles (Elderfield et al. 2000). The authors reported higher Sr/Ca variations over time in *N. pachyderma* within the Last Glacial Maximum (increase of Sr/Ca by $\sim 10\%$) compared with other warm water planktonic species ($\sim 5\%$) (Elderfield et al. 2000). Thus, increased foraminiferal Sr/Ca values could be attributed to the duration and/or extent of sea ice cover at that time. To support the assumption of a sea ice-covered paleo-environment causing elevated element ratios, the measurement of foraminiferal $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{foram}}$ would provide further evidence.

Besides the influence of temperature and salinity on element incorporation into calcite shells, both parameters influence the foraminiferal oxygen isotopic signature. In sea surface waters (sw), $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$ and salinity are highly correlated (increase of 0.5% per salinity unit on global average) and influenced by evaporation (increase in salinity and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$) and precipitation (decrease in salinity and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$) processes, resulting in lower values at high northern and southern latitudes (Gussone et al. 2004; Ravelo and Hillaire-Marcel 2007). This salinity to $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$ relationship further affects the stable oxygen isotope signature in foraminiferal calcite ($\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{foram}}$), which is influenced by the thermodynamic isotopic fractionation between $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{foram}}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$ during calcite precipitation. The $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{foram}}$ values are inversely correlated to its calcification temperature (decrease of $\sim 0.2\%$ by an increase of 1 °C), as foraminiferal calcite is in equilibrium with $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{sw}}$ (Ravelo and Hillaire-Marcel 2007).

The duration of sea ice cover could lead to an isotopic offset in calcite shells, recording the temperature and $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{brine}}$ of the ambient environment. Due to ongoing sea ice formation, brines get more saline and isotopically lighter. Accordingly, the brine $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ signature becomes increasingly depleted as the surrounding sea ice is enriched in ^{18}O (O'Neil 1968). The oxygen isotope fractionation from seawater to sea ice is around 1.003 (O'Neil 1968). Thus, the sea ice brines reveal $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{brine}}$ values between $\sim -9\%$ and $+0.5\%$ and decrease with sea ice thickness towards the sea ice-seawater interface (Tison et al. 2008).

Hendry et al. (2009) reported decreasing $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values from ~ 3.2 to 2.9 ‰ in *N. pachyderma* (s) at the time of sea ice cover of the West Antarctic Peninsula. The same trend is mentioned for *N. pachyderma* (s) in the Weddell Sea by Berberich (1996). Whereas $\delta^{18}\text{O}_{\text{foram}}$ values of the summer population are expected to be around 3.9 ‰, a decreasing trend by ~ 0.3 ‰ is reported for the winter population, which is assumed to occur because the foraminifera were trapped in sea ice (Berberich 1996). This supports our hypothesis that foraminifera calcifying in the sea ice incorporate presumably lower $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ values in their calcite shells with increasing brine salinities, causing the depletion of ^{18}O in the foraminiferal shells. With respect to paleo-reconstructions, the geochemical signature of foraminifera formed within sea ice would lead to the assumption and interpretation that affected foraminifera would have calcified at warmer temperatures due to lighter oxygen isotopes and higher trace element concentrations. Changes in the geochemical signature of *N. pachyderma* shells could be significant when considering the ability of chamber wall thickening up to salinities of 83 in culture. Previous studies have shown for neogloboquadrinid shells that the outer calcite layer is highly variable and could amount to 55% of the entire shell wall thickness (Jonkers et al. 2012; Fehrenbacher et al. 2017). Our data suggest a possible bias of Mg/Ca, Sr/Ca, Na/Ca (and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$) of shells formed within sea ice, which could now explain previously unexplainable high Mg/Ca or Sr/Ca values in foraminiferal calcite at the time of the Last Glacial Maximum in regions where we would expect sea ice cover (see, e.g., Eggins et al. 2003, Meland et al. 2006; Hendry et al. 2009). However, additional culture experiments in comparison with sediment surface samples are essential to further constrain these initial observations.

Conclusions

This study presents new environmental insights on chamber calcification of the polar species *N. pachyderma* (s) under extreme culture conditions, akin to those expected in sea ice brines. Newly formed chambers were clearly identified in juvenile to pre-adult foraminifera (≤ 150 μm) at culture conditions with S 30, 31, and 69, whereas chamber wall thickening was even observed up to S 83. Chamber thickening was in particular prominent for specimens at a later life-stage (≥ 150 – 250 μm) in culture. Calcification within extreme culture conditions would imply that *N. pachyderma* specimens can tolerate high salinity gradients \geq S 83 (and low temperatures), similar to conditions where individuals are captured in sea ice brine pockets during sea ice formation.

As the chemical composition and in particular the salinity of sea ice brines differs significantly from seawater in the pelagic ocean, chamber calcification within sea ice brines would carry a distinct proxy signature in relation to paleo-

oceanographic reconstructions. Our electron microprobe based single foraminiferal element analysis showed elevated Mg/Ca, Sr/Ca, and Na/Ca values of cultured *N. pachyderma* at higher salinities, whereas Mg/Ca showed the weakest response to salinity changes in culture. For *N. pachyderma*, Na/Ca values showed a statistically significant positive correlation with salinity changes (S 31–69) in culture, following the same slope of regression line as previously reported for cultured *G. ruber* (pink) and *G. ruber* (white) from core-top sediments (Allen et al. 2016; Mezger et al. 2018). Although the sea ice brine composition differs from seawater, it is likely that the salinity is the prime driver controlling Na incorporation into *N. pachyderma* specimens. Our conclusion is supported by previous studies that reported an insignificant effect of changes in temperature or in the carbonate chemistry (e.g., pH, $[\text{CO}_3^{2-}]$) on Na incorporation into symbiont-bearing species (*G. ruber*, *T. sacculifer*; Allen et al. 2016; Mezger et al. 2016; Bertlich et al. 2018), which requires further research for cold-water and symbiont-barren species. For *N. pachyderma* specimens cultured at high salinity (S 69), Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca values exceed values from fossil records (Hendry et al. 2009) and calibration studies (for Mg: e.g., Nürnberg 1995; Elderfield and Ganssen 2000). Multiple factors have additional control on foraminiferal Mg/Ca incorporation; however, it is most likely that changes in salinity within brine channels could predominately control Mg incorporation over temperature and pH changes. Even though Sr/Ca is homogeneously distributed in cultured shells, higher salinities should not be neglected, as these could indirectly promote calcification processes, and further, the increase in Sr/Ca (Lea et al. 1999; Elderfield et al. 2002; Kisakürek et al. 2008; Dissard et al. 2010). Based on our results, significant enrichments of Na/Ca, Sr/Ca, Mg/Ca, and the hypothetical depletion of $^{18}\text{O}_{\text{foram}}$ would be expected in *N. pachyderma* present in regions with more sea ice cover, leading to anomalously high salinity and temperature estimates in paleo-reconstructions (cf. Eggins et al. 2003, Meland et al. 2006; Hendry et al. 2009). Hence, this study helps to explain inexplicable high trace element values in foraminiferal shells from polar environments based on the confirmed evidence of their survival and calcite formation in high salinity culture experiments.

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Data availability All data used in this study are presented in the manuscript and appendices. The sample material is archived at the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster (contact: nikolaus.gussone@uni-muenster.de).

Compliance with ethical standards

Competing interests The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Appendix 1

Table 3 Trace element results of single spot measurements by the electron microprobe. Each value represents one spot on chamber wall cross sections of cultured *N. pachyderma* at different salinities and a constant temperature (− 1 to + 2 °C). The final chamber F has been grown in culture. Chambers F-1 and F-2 have been grown prior to the

culture experiments most likely at the sea surface (S 34) or at the sea ice interface (S 34–48) (WOA2013; Lemke 2014b; Tison et al. 2008). Average shell Mg/Ca, Sr/Ca, and Na/Ca values are based on the standard error \pm SE (σ/\sqrt{n}) and are shown in italic

Individual foraminifer #	Chamber	Salinity	Mg/Ca (mmol/mol)	Average \pm SE	Sr/Ca (mmol/mol)	Average \pm SE	Na/Ca (mmol/mol)	Average \pm SE
1	F	69	1.86	<i>2.10 \pm 0.54</i>	1.12	<i>1.61 \pm 0.16</i>	9.73	<i>8.08 \pm 0.63</i>
1	F	69	1.03		0.99		6.14	
1	F	69	–		1.47		10.09	
1	F	69	4.83		2.21		9.62	
1	F	69	0.73		1.68		6.63	
1	F	69	1.02		2.20		7.37	
1	F	69	2.68		1.83		7.00	
1	F	69	2.57		1.36		–	
1	F-1	34	1.09	<i>1.09 \pm 0.20</i>	1.76	<i>1.45 \pm 0.12</i>	6.45	<i>5.65 \pm 0.56</i>
1	F-1	34	1.13		1.44		3.73	
1	F-1	34	2.14		1.80		7.49	
1	F-1	34	1.05		0.87		7.25	
1	F-1	34	0.95		1.34		3.47	
1	F-1	34	0.24		1.27		6.81	
1	F-1	34	1.51		1.86		4.86	
1	F-1	34	0.65		1.26		5.13	
1	F-2	34	1.56	<i>1.09 \pm 0.19</i>	1.79	<i>1.41 \pm 0.25</i>	4.49	<i>5.91 \pm 0.52</i>
1	F-2	34	0.88		1.71		5.92	
1	F-2	34	0.70		1.42		6.33	
1	F-2	34	1.22		0.70		6.91	
2	F	69	0.95	<i>1.14 \pm 0.10</i>	1.66	<i>1.89 \pm 0.18</i>	7.99	<i>9.26 \pm 1.49</i>
2	F	69	1.30		2.24		7.58	
2	F	69	1.17		1.77		12.23	
2	F-1	34	0.30	<i>1.10 \pm 0.46</i>	1.08	<i>1.26 \pm 0.20</i>	10.96	<i>8.18 \pm 1.18</i>
2	F-1	34	1.90		1.86		5.31	
2	F-1	34	1.11		0.99		7.58	
2	F-1	34	–		1.12		8.88	
2	F-2	34	0.92	<i>1.27 \pm 0.30</i>	1.79	<i>1.49 \pm 0.28</i>	10.36	<i>8.13 \pm 0.80</i>
2	F-2	34	1.53		2.02		6.93	
2	F-2	34	0.45		1.95		8.61	
2	F-2	34	1.21		1.09		8.96	
2	F-2	34	2.23		0.61		5.80	
3	F	69	0.45	<i>1.15 \pm 0.32</i>	1.77	<i>1.79 \pm 0.15</i>	9.30	<i>9.17 \pm 0.57</i>
3	F	69	0.94		1.62		7.25	
3	F	69	3.14		1.06		9.51	
3	F	69	1.72		2.33		11.38	
3	F	69	0.79		1.81		10.88	
3	F	69	0.47		1.98		8.77	
3	F	69	0.74		1.47		6.71	
3	F	69	0.91		2.27		9.55	
3	F-1	34	0.24	<i>0.27 \pm 0.10</i>	1.21	<i>1.22 \pm 0.09</i>	8.20	<i>7.16 \pm 0.76</i>
3	F-1	34	0.10		1.38		7.58	
3	F-1	34	0.46		1.07		5.68	
3	F-2	34	1.60	<i>0.81 \pm 0.19</i>	1.38	<i>1.15 \pm 0.12</i>	5.24	<i>6.33 \pm 0.84</i>
3	F-2	34	0.55		1.11		9.01	

Table 3 (continued)

Individual foraminifer #	Chamber	Salinity	Mg/Ca (mmol/mol)	Average \pm SE	Sr/Ca (mmol/mol)	Average \pm SE	Na/Ca (mmol/mol)	Average \pm SE
3	F-2	34	0.54		1.58		5.29	
3	F-2	34	0.26		1.15		5.21	
3	F-2	34	0.93		0.87		8.89	
3	F-2	34	1.00		0.80		4.33	
4	F	69	1.93	1.20 ± 0.12	1.49	1.38 ± 0.10	7.26	8.23 ± 0.43
4	F	69	0.99		1.98		5.77	
4	F	69	0.44		1.56		9.92	
4	F	69	0.63		2.47		8.26	
4	F	69	0.60		1.12		5.68	
4	F	69	0.97		0.40		7.09	
4	F	69	0.70		0.85		8.37	
4	F	69	0.62		1.39		9.71	
4	F	69	0.16		1.94		5.38	
4	F	69	1.17		1.70		9.91	
4	F	69	1.16		1.04		10.03	
4	F	69	2.31		0.51		11.26	
4	F	69	1.50		1.54		9.30	
4	F	69	1.63		1.40		10.71	
4	F	69	2.04		1.63		4.50	
4	F	69	1.60		1.87		8.96	
4	F	69	-		0.93		5.04	
4	F	69	1.04		2.18		10.30	
4	F	69	-		1.16		8.23	
4	F	69	0.96		0.97		4.72	
4	F	69	1.22		1.60		9.56	
4	F	69	0.87		1.07		5.29	
4	F	69	2.28		1.39		9.13	
4	F	69	1.63		1.34		10.32	
4	F	69	0.69		0.79		11.49	
4	F	69	1.72		1.47		7.89	
4	F-1	34	1.09	1.70 ± 0.14	1.82	1.44 ± 0.09	7.08	6.83 ± 0.31
4	F-1	34	2.47		1.64		4.88	
4	F-1	34	1.73		1.21		6.74	
4	F-1	34	1.87		0.49		6.81	
4	F-1	34	1.50		1.50		8.67	
4	F-1	34	2.48		0.73		7.80	
4	F-1	34	2.65		1.34		5.29	
4	F-1	34	1.10		0.97		6.20	
4	F-1	34	0.91		1.65		7.28	
4	F-1	34	1.80		1.44		6.81	
4	F-1	34	3.76		1.97		6.18	
4	F-1	34	2.13		1.20		6.70	
4	F-1	34	1.45		1.18		5.63	
4	F-1	34	1.58		1.81		5.44	
4	F-1	34	1.89		1.73		-	
4	F-1	34	1.71		1.73		9.97	
4	F-1	34	1.72		1.80		8.54	
4	F-1	34	0.38		1.42		9.59	
4	F-1	34	0.66		1.48		6.69	
4	F-1	34	1.70		1.05		6.70	
4	F-1	34	1.56		0.80		5.61	
4	F-1	34	1.14		2.43		9.50	
4	F-1	34	1.77		1.69		5.62	
5	F	69	1.02	1.23 ± 0.29	1.95	1.52 ± 0.44	6.86	6.61 ± 1.18
5	F	69	0.23		1.75		7.62	
5	F	69	1.04		1.31		7.16	
5	F	69	0.61		2.08		3.30	
5	F	69	6.43		1.19		6.74	
5	F-1	34	2.07	1.86 ± 1.15	0.12	1.65 ± 0.18	5.83	6.34 ± 0.78
5	F-1	34	1.46		1.58		4.25	
5	F-1	34	0.90		1.06		10.85	
5	F-1	34	1.39		2.65		7.31	
5	F-1	34	0.34		2.20		4.82	
6	F	31	1.00	1.24 ± 0.14	1.45	1.87 ± 0.18	5.58	5.88 ± 0.30
6	F	31	1.51		2.01		5.89	
6	F	31	0.80		2.08		6.37	
6	F	31	0.93		2.09		6.66	
6	F	31	-		1.36		6.68	

Table 3 (continued)

Individual foraminifer #	Chamber	Salinity	Mg/Ca (mmol/mol)	Average \pm SE	Sr/Ca (mmol/mol)	Average \pm SE	Na/Ca (mmol/mol)	Average \pm SE
6	F	31	1.07		2.06		5.92	
6	F	31	1.72		2.72		-	
6	F	31	1.68		2.19		5.90	
6	F	31	-		0.87		4.06	
6	F-1	34	1.46	1.77 ± 0.20	2.39	1.86 ± 0.10	7.42	8.46 ± 0.75
6	F-1	34	1.17		2.01		8.98	
6	F-1	34	1.66		1.96		8.98	
6	F-1	34	2.19		1.70		12.31	
6	F-1	34	0.97		1.85		5.04	
6	F-1	34	1.40		1.19		6.01	
6	F-1	34	2.91		1.98		10.37	
6	F-1	34	1.60		1.54		8.33	
6	F-1	34	1.71		1.95		11.11	
6	F-1	34	2.62		2.05		6.07	
6	F-2	34	1.59	1.59 ± 0.13	1.82	1.54 ± 0.09	5.63	7.34 ± 0.51
6	F-2	34	2.51		1.49		6.97	
6	F-2	34	1.36		1.27		8.13	
6	F-2	34	1.46		1.23		4.47	
6	F-2	34	1.93		2.06		10.46	
6	F-2	34	1.23		1.65		6.38	
6	F-2	34	0.99		1.71		6.24	
6	F-2	34	1.47		1.00		7.37	
6	F-2	34	1.69		1.75		9.16	
6	F-2	34	1.65		1.40		8.41	
6	F-2	34	-		1.56		7.54	

Appendix 2. Application of time-of-flight secondary ion mass spectrometry

Some cultured foraminifer shells were additionally measured by Time-of-Flight Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry (ToF-SIMS) as independent control of the results obtained by the electron microprobe analysis.

Selected sample mounts prepared for electron microprobe analyses were also used for element analysis by ToF-SIMS, as plane surfaces are essential for high-count yields and to avoid shading effects. Analyses of shell Mg/Ca, Na/Ca, Sr/Ca ratios were performed at the Physikalisches Institut, Universität

Münster on a custom-built ToF-SIMS instrument that is largely equivalent to the ToF-SIMS IV (ION-TOF GmbH). Element concentrations were analyzed using the isotopes ^{24}Mg , ^{25}Mg , ^{23}Na , ^{43}Ca , ^{44}Ca , ^{87}Sr , and ^{88}Sr . The analyses were performed using a liquid metal ion source with a 25 keV Bi_3^+ ion beam operated at primary energy of 25 keV, and the ion distribution images were taken in the dual-beam mode. The primary ion current was 0.1 pA and the integration time was set to 100 μs . Prior to analysis, the sample surface was cleaned by sputtering with argon ions (accelerated with 6 keV) for 2-s and 0.5-s idle time

Table 4 Trace element values of cultured *N. pachyderma* (s), measured by the ToF-SIMS. All values are given in counts per second (cps) and the error is based on the standard deviation (SD). Chamber F is newly formed during the experiments within a salinity of 31 and 69. Preceding chambers (F-1, F-2) are grown in the natural habitat at an approximate seawater salinity of 34 or at the sea ice interface (S 34–48) (WOA2013; Lemke 2014b; Tison et al. 2008)

Individual foraminifer #	Chamber	Salinity	Mg/Ca (cps/cps) $\times 10^{-2} \pm \text{SD}$	Sr/Ca (cps/cps) $\times 10^{-2} \pm \text{SD}$	Na/Ca (cps/cps) $\pm \text{SD}$
1	F	69	0.25 ± 0.02	0.07 ± 0.01	0.21 ± 0.12
1	F-1	34	0.06 ± 0.01	0.07 ± 0.004	0.11 ± 0.03
1	F-2	34	0.08 ± 0.07	0.06 ± 0.002	0.14 ± 0.05
3	F	69	0.41 ± 0.01	0.07 ± 0.003	0.12 ± 0.04
3	F-1	34	0.06 ± 0.002	0.06 ± 0.002	0.14 ± 0.03
3	F-2	34	0.07 ± 0.001	0.06 ± 0.001	0.19 ± 0.03
4	F	69	0.26 ± 0.004	0.07 ± 0.002	0.15 ± 0.03
4	F-1	34	0.36 ± 0.005	0.06 ± 0.002	0.12 ± 0.03
4	F-2	34	0.23 ± 0.002	0.07 ± 0.001	0.14 ± 0.02
6	F	31	0.64 ± 0.04	0.09 ± 0.003	0.11 ± 0.04
6	F-1	34	0.41 ± 0.08	0.09 ± 0.01	0.12 ± 0.02
6	F-2	34	0.38 ± 0.13	0.09 ± 0.01	0.15 ± 0.07

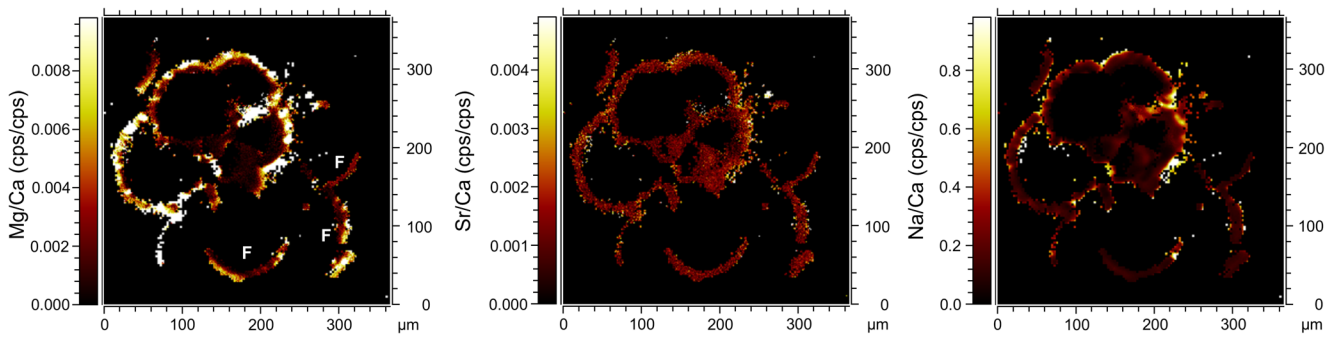


Fig. 8 Example of qualitative ToF-SIMS element distribution maps, showing chamber wall cross sections of cultured *N. pachyderma* (s). Element ratios are presented in counts per second (cps). The foraminifer

shown here was cultured at a salinity of 31 and formed a new chamber (F) during the experiments

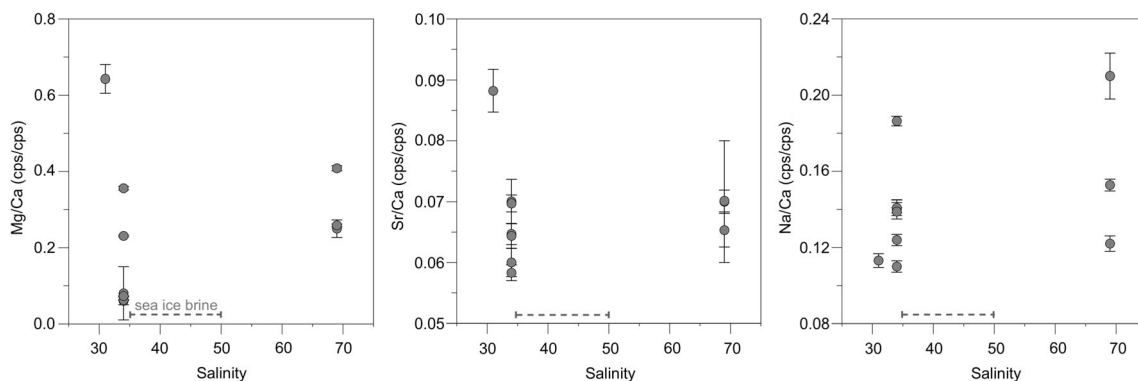


Fig. 9 ToF-SIMS single spot measurements of cultured *N. pachyderma* (s). Gray dots are representative for one measurement at respective chambers. Culture experiments were implemented at a salinity of 31 and 69. Element ratios at a salinity of S 34 derive from pre-existing chambers before individuals were placed in culture. The gray dashed horizontal error bars mark the potential salinity range in which chambers could have grown in the natural habitat close to the seawater-sea ice interface (S 34–48) (WOA2013; Lemke 2014b; Tison et al. 2008).

Single values are given in Table B. Trace element results from ToF-SIMS measurements are comparable with electron microprobe results (Fig. 6) and show the same trend with increasing salinity. Shell Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca values at experiment S 31 (measured by ToF-SIMS) are exceptionally high compared with electron microprobe results, which may be the result of intra-shell variability within chambers, and minor changes in the element composition due to the fact that it is not possible to measure the exact spot twice

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