

Press Release



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New insights into the marine microcosm Confocal laser scanning microscope expands GEOMAR's analytical infrastructure

October 23, 2012/Kiel. The significance of small organic particles and organisms for the food webs of the oceans and for the global carbon cycle is generally known. However, many of the processes involved are not yet fully understood. At GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel a special microscope now helps the scientists to increase the knowledge of this microcosm.

Although many of them are so tiny that they cannot be recognized with the naked eye, organic particles and small organisms such as bacteria, viruses and phytoplankton are important for the marine food web. They are the basis of the marine food chain and play a key role in the global carbon cycle. The GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel has now acquired a special microscope, the confocal laser scanning microscope (CLSM), to study these tiny organisms and particles. The CLSM allows scientists to observe and analyze the structure and function of these organisms and particles in three dimensions. This is a significant step forward in the understanding of the marine microcosm.



Contact:

Prof. Dr. Anja Engel (GEOMAR, FB2-Marine Biogeochemistry, Biological Oceanography),
aengel@geomar.de

Jan Michels (GEOMAR, FB2-Marine Biogeochemistry, Biological Oceanography),
jmichels@geomar.de

Jan Steffen (GEOMAR, Communication & Media), Tel.: 0049 431 600-2811, jsteffen@geomar.de