

How to take samples from the beach

A spoon of material from the beach may contain hundreds or no tests of foraminifera. It depends on your sampling:

1

go to the waterline but not a highest tide. Search on still wet parts of the beach for lines or banks of small, just visible shells (<1cm) and debris. Pick up such calcareous material from the surface. Avoid places, where most visible shells are broken or heavily rounded.



2

Don't dig, take material and a bit of sand only from the surface with a spoon or plastic-card.



3

On one beach take several samples of 3-4 spoons from different places together in order to enlarge the probabilities. In total 100-200g from one beach should be enough.

Ideal coasts and beachparts and timing

flat natural beaches, estuaries, tideland and mudflats with calcareous and/or organic material.

go at low tide

Less appropriate beaches and beach-sections

High and permanently rolling waves may cause steep beaches and heavily rounded shells. Got to a sheltered section such as behind rocks or spur dykes, where shells tend to be deposited and rest in peace.



Unappropriate coasts

Artificial sand in front of beach resorts, beaches with only coarse gravel or pebble stone, cliff-lines

Specials

Algae-strings may contain lots of foraminifera sometimes even visible as white dots. Some worm-tubes are made of shell-debris and foraminiferan tests, best found in late autumn.

