

specimens with multiple apertures (sports) have been regarded as distinct genera and (or) species. The abundance of these sports is estimated to occur in no more than 12 specimens per every 500 "normal" specimens, or substantially less than 1 percent of the total *A. exsertus* population. Sports of *A. siliceus* (Terquem) manifest themselves in conspicuous offsettings of the inner initial coils. This feature has also led to previous taxonomic misinterpretation.

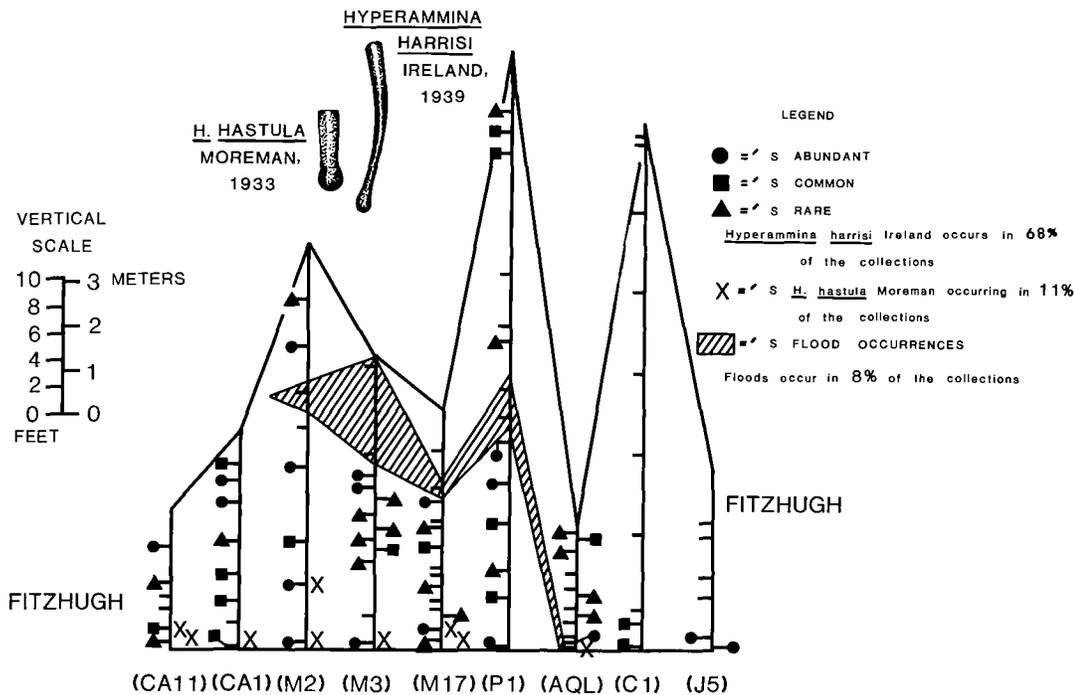
"Floods."—Residues containing "floods" of agglutinated foraminifers occur at each location; their distribution is shown in text-figures 12–20. These "flood" residues contain literally thousands of agglutinated foraminifer specimens. This microfauna is primarily dominated by species of *Ammodiscus* and in a few instances by specimens of *Hyperammina harrisi* Ireland, or a combination of both forms. Other Clarita agglutinated foraminifers are also relatively more abundant within these ammodiscid floods but are apt to be masked by sheer numbers of ammodiscids.

*Paleoecologic comments.*—Examination of 90 Clarita collections containing many

thousands of agglutinated foraminifer specimens has allowed us to speculate as to the probable paleoecologic habitat of various forms represented within this assemblage. These data are summarized in table 2.

The Clarita foraminiferal assemblage is composed entirely of benthic agglutinated foraminifers that inhabited various paleoecologic niches within a typical level bottom community. It is thought that there probably existed various levels of habitat stratification within this particular depositional realm. Accordingly, three habitats can be suggested, based on the morphologic features exhibited by some species and comparison with Holocene benthic foraminifer habitats. These are (1) benthic encrusters, (2) benthic browsers, and (3) benthic interstitial forms.

Those forms classified as benthic encrusters can be readily identified by two distinctive morphologic features, i.e., attachment scars or slits, usually on the ventral surface of the test (well shown in some specimens of *Thurammina irregularis* Moreman), and, in the absence of a particular attachment scar, a flat-bottomed test or series of flat-bottomed



Text-figure 12. Graphic plot showing distribution and abundance of two species of *Hyperammina* present within Fitzhugh interval along outcrop belt; pattern delineates stratigraphic interval with flood occurrences of hyperamminids at five locations (M2, M3, M17, P1, and AQL).