

Foraminifera

Winston Ingram

The following images are examples of Foraminifera from the London basin close to the waterline of the River Thames. I prepared the samples by sifting through earth and extracting the microfossils then separating the shells or Foraminifera.

I then mounted them onto standard slides, because of the size and sharpness no slip cover is used. To the naked eye they all look similar but in fact each one has its own geometric shape and pattern.

Once mounted, I photograph them on my Leica Stereo Microscope. I use a Nikon 5100 DSLP camera attached to one of the ocular ports. All the subjects are white, so I use various techniques, including polarisation darkfield, rheinberg filters and phase contrast to bring them to life.

The size of the subjects range from 0.25mm to 5mm approximately, my microscope has a 900mm track stand with a specimen stage above the LED transmitted light so I can use the filters and polarisers directly on the light and move them to obtain the colour effect I require.

Once I have the images, I then do a final edit using Photoshop.

You can find out more about Foraminifera at any of the following websites:
www.ucl.ac.uk/GeolSci/micropal/foram
www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/foram/foramintro
www.marinespecies.org/foraminifera
www.ocean.si.edu/slideshow/foraminifera
www.foraminifera.eu/









