Nephrolepidina praemarginata (Douvillé, 1908) from the Majella Mt.

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INTRODUCTION
The two investigated Nephrolepidina populations come from calcareous well-bedded travertines from the southern flank of the F. Croce Mts (28°37'57" N, 14°40'35" E), facing the town of Canara (Teramo). In the examined section, the Oligocene deposits may be subdivided into two sequences, the first one being represented by calcareous marls with texturally well-developed carbonate clasts and the second one by bioclastic limestones and marlstones with bioclastic clasts (Visco, 1991).

RESULTS OF THE BIOMETRIC STUDY
The data obtained from the statistical evaluation of the measures obtained from two populations are summarized in Table 3. The biometrical megaspore apparatuses are of the Nephrolepidina-type, with a rather moderate range of variability (Table 2) (Peretti, 1997). The relative homogenous character of the population results from an examination of the histograms, with a distribution of the values close to normality for every parameter and factors in E77, whereas this is less evident in E78. Because of the large number of measurements, the statistical test of normality (K-S) failed in Table 3. According to Dehnhard (1971), populations E74 and E77 may be attributed to N. praemarginata. The statistically tested normality of the distribution of the indicates that these are more specific to the normal distribution of all other parameters supports the homogeneous character of the population.

ECOLOGICAL CONSTRAINT
The problem of the abundance size and its variation is still in need of knowledge by many authors. Evidence gained in the Gulf of Ascoli on different related largerforaminifera by Peretti (1997) and Di Carlo (1998) shows that the depth gradient the protocoonch diameter at maximum values in correspondence with the ecological optimum. The smaller values characterize the marginal populations at the extremes of the depth range (Fig. 8). Heininger (1992) suggested that smaller protocoonchs such as Nephrolepidina may have had symbiosis living in the lenticular chambers in the present-day Mediterranean Sea. However, transport, mixing of sediments from different populations, and other processes (e.g., bottom slides) may account for the well-known biogeochemical trends in Nephrolepidina.