For better understanding of the Southern Ocean history

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The hard parts, such as calcareous shell and siliceous valve, of the zoo- and phytoplankton including foraminifers and diatoms are preserved in sediments as microfossil. They have been used to know the sedimentary ages and paleoenvironment. In the Southern Ocean, several paleoceanographic studies have been continued using microfossils from the sediments. However, detailed ecological preference of the marine plankton, which is essential for paleoenvironmental reconstruction, has not completely clarified yet, due to the difficulty of gaining access to the Southern Ocean. In this presentation, we review recent results of the paleoenvironmental reconstruction in the Southern Ocean using siliceous microfossils, and then discuss several problems of paleontological/paleoceanographic studies.

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