



Fig. 4. Map of the RAINBOW vent field. Left, the distribution of active sites. Right, topography of the overall area (EM 12 bathymetric survey — FLORES cruise). The Rainbow vent field is situated on the Rainbow Ridge in the north of AMAR segment.

the polychaete *Spiochaetopterus* sp. formed dense and patchy populations inside hydrothermal sediments near the site. On the active crest to the west of the field, *M. fortunata* was observed in relatively dense aggregations along with some individuals of *R. exoculata* and *C. chacei*. No mussels