

Contribution to Sipuncula of North Adriatic insular region

by

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Abstract

In biological samples which derived from about 400 stations in the investigated area, the following Sipuncula species were identified : *Aspidosiphon muelleri* Dies., *A. kovalevskii* Murina, *Phascolosoma granulatum* (Leuck.), *Phascolion strombi* (Mont.), *Golfingia catharinae* (Grube), *G. elongata* (Kef.), *G. vulgaris* (Blv.), and *Onchnesoma steenstrupii* Kor. Dan. Principal ecological data are given for each species.

Résumé

Les espèces suivantes de Sipunculoïdes : *Aspidosiphon muelleri* Dies., *A. kovalevskii* Murina, *Phascolosoma granulatum* (Leuck.), *Phascolion strombi* (Mont.), *Golfingia catharinae* (Grube), *G. elongata* (Kef.), *G. vulgaris* (Blv.) et *Onchnesoma steenstrupii* Kor. Dan. ont été identifiées au cours de relevés effectués dans 400 stations différentes environ. Les principales données écologiques relatives à chaque espèce sont aussi reportées.

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In the North Adriatic insular region, the Sipuncula are poorly known. Only few reports from the bordering regions of the area can be found in the works of GRUBE [1864], LORENZ [1863], VATOVA [1942, 1949], and ZALOKAR [1942].

In the past decade, a rich biological material was sampled in this area by RV *Bios*, RV *Vila Velebita*, and several small boats or coastal trips. About 400 stations were visited. The material was sampled by means of grabs [PETERSEN, VAN VEEN], tow nets (biological dredges, otter trawl), and by skin or Scuba divers.

The following species were identified (Figure 1) :

Aspidosiphon muelleri Diesing 1851 is most distributed on soft terrigenous ooze in the Gulf of Rijeka and in Velebitski kanal, at 45-85 m depth. The specimens inhabited almost exclusively empty shells of.

Turritella tricarinata. Usually 0.5-3.8 % of these shells were occupied by the worm.

Aspidosiphon kovalevskii Murina 1964. Only one specimen was found on sandy bottom near the island Molat, at the depth of 48 m. The worm inhabited the empty shell of *Dentalium vulgare*.

Phascolosoma granulatum (Leuckart 1828) is widely distributed in the area. It prefers the crevices under loose stones, the burrows of endolithic shellfish, and compact fronds of *Cystoseira adriatica*.

Phascolion strombi (Montagu 1804) was sampled on three localities, at 39-54 m depth. One specimen inhabited the empty shell of *Cerithium vulgatum*, and others the tubes of unidentified serpulid worms.

Golfingia catharinae (Grube 1868). The findings near the islands Molat and Pag are the first cited for the Mediterranean area [MURINA 1974]. The animals derived from soft oozy bottom at 72 m depth.

Golfingia elongata (Keferstein 1892) was sampled at several stations on sandy, oozy, and mixed bottoms, at 45-87 m depth.

Rapp. Comm. int. Mer Médit., 23, 2, pp. 127-128, 1 fig. (1975).

Golfingia vulgaris (Blainville 1827) was found only near the islands Rab and Pag, on fine sand at 69 and 73 m depth. Once the infestation with *Loxosoma* was stated.

Onchnesoma steenstrupii Koren et Danielssen 1877. In the North Adriatic, it was reported until now only from two offshore stations [VATOVA 1949]. We have found one specimen between the islands Cres and Lošinj, on oozy bottom, at the 80 m depth.

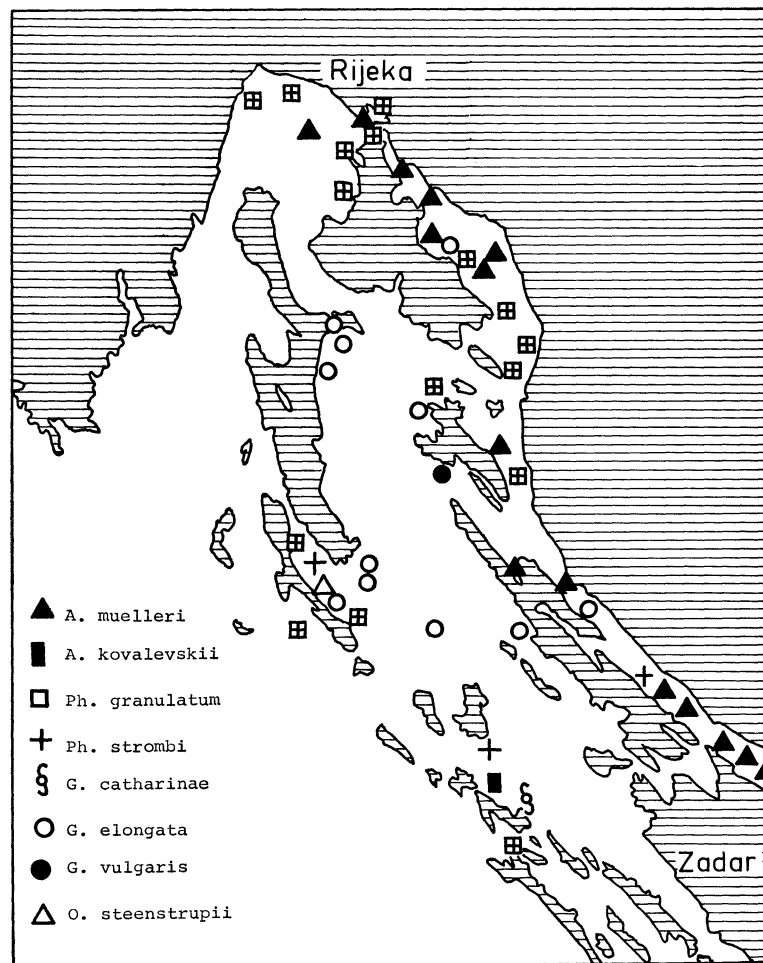


FIG. 1. — New find spots of Sipuncula in investigated area.

According to our data, the investigated area is pretty rich on Sipuncula species. But usually they do not play an important role in the communities, except of *A. muelleri*, which can be fairly numerous at some stations (up to 40 specimens per square meter).

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