

Spatial and quantitative distribution of the *Hippa Mesodesma* community in the Northern Gulf of Aqaba

by

NEIL C. HULINGS

*Marine Science Program and Department of Biology, Faculty of sciences,
University of Jordan, Amman (Jordan)*

Résumé

On décrit la distribution quantitative et spatiale de la communauté à *Hippa-Mesodesma* dans le golfe septentrional d'Aqaba.

*
* *

The *Hippa-Mesodesma* community of the Aqaba Coast of Jordan was studied in terms of the spatial and quantitative distribution during July and August, 1974. A total of 6 beaches were sampled, some several times, others only once. Two basic types of sampling were conducted, one to determine the horizontal distribution of the community and the second to determine the distribution of *Hippa* within the wave-wash zone. For the horizontal distribution of the community, samples $25 \times 25 \times 10$ cm were taken at 25 cm intervals along a line perpendicular to the beach to a variable depth below sea level, depending on the occurrence of the sand-gravel sediment. Within the wave-wash zone, 4- $25 \times 25 \times 10$ cm samples were taken within an area of 1 m².

The species of *Hippa*, *H. celaeno* and *H. picta*, were determined for each sampling as well as size variation and sex. The size range for *Mesodesma glabrum* was determined. *Mesodesma* was found to numerically dominate the community in the northern part of the area studied whereas *Hippa* dominated the southern part. Additional components of the *Hippa-Mesodesma* community included *Polygordius*, a polyclad and an isopod. These components were found to be more abundant in the Southern part of the area studied.

Contribution Number 2 from the Marine Science Program of the University of Jordan.

Rapp. Comm. int. Mer Médit., **23**, 2, p. 161 (1975).

