

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE LARVAE OF DECAPOD CRUSTACEA FROM PAGASSITIKOS GULF, GREECE.

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Resumé

On a étudié les stades larvaires des Crustacés Décapodes (Natantia, Macrura Reptantia et Anomura) pour des buts taxonomiques. Le matériel a été trié par les échantillons planctoniques du golfe Pagassitikos et de la région voisine (Grèce) recoltés en Février et Juin 1977.

Au point de vue taxonomique les larves Décapodes de cette collection peuvent être divisées en trois groupes: Le premier groupe comprend 22 espèces qui sont conformes aux descriptions antérieures des espèces d' autres régions (en principe de l' Atlantique N.E.). Le deuxième comprend 3 espèces ayant des différences minimales avec les descriptions antérieures. Nous supposons que ces différences peuvent être dues à des différences de populations ou de conditions. Dans la troisième groupe sont compris 2 genres (Processa et Upogebia) qui présentent une grande diversité de formes, probablement d' espèces.

The larval stages of decapod Crustacea of the Hellenic Seas are extremely insufficiently known. The only references for these larvae in Greece are included in Stephensen's Report on the Danish Oceanographical Expedition in 1908-1910 to the Mediterranean and adjacent Seas.

The study was carried out on plankton material from nine stations of Pagassitikos Gulf and adjacent regions, in February and June 1977. Pagassitikos Gulf is located on the middle eastern coast of Continental Greece and it includes the city of Volos. A Wp2 net was used for horizontal surface trawlings in the February cruise and for both horizontal surface and vertical trawlings in the June cruise.

The larvae under study belongs to Natantia, Macrura Reptantia and Anomura. From a taxonomical point of view the decapod larvae of the present collection may be divided in three main groups:

First the occurrence of the following species is reported. These specimens agree with previous descriptions mainly from the northeastern atlantic region.

NATANTIA: *Gennadas elegans*, *Solenocera membranacea*, *Sicyonia carinata*, *Sergestes robustus*, *Acanthephyra purpurea*, *Hippolyte inermis*, *Hippolyte varians*, *Thoralus cranchii*, *Lyasmata seticaudata*, *Athanas nitescens*, *Alpheus glaber*, *Processa modica modica*, *Palaemon elegans*, *Philoceras bispinosus*, *Philoceras echinulatus*, *Philoceras sculptus*.

MACRURA REPTANTIA: *Gallianassa subterranea* and *Upogebia stellata*.

ANOMURA: *Anapagurus biconiger*, *Anapagurus chiroacanthus*, *Diogenes pugillator*, *Clibanarius erythropus*.

The underlined species are first reported from Greece.

The second group includes some species such as *Pandalina brevirostris*, *Palaemon longirostris* and *Jaxea nocturna* which differ from the already described larvae of these species in some minute details. These differences can not be at the species level, so I suggest that they may be due to differences in populations or differences in conditions of hatching and development.

In the third group are the genera *Processa* from Natantia and *Upogebia* from Macrura Reptantia which, besides the species *P. modica modica* and *U. stellata*, show a great variety of other forms.

In the genus *Processa* there are four more underscribed forms in various developmental stages whose different characteristics are at the species level, as they are suggested by Fincham and Williamson (1978).

In the genus *Upogebia* there are forms which according to the previous descriptions of its species, belong to *U. deltaura*. However, the great variety in the development and the length of each stage may suggest the possible occurrence of underscribed species (in larval stages). In this case, the distinction of these larvae in species should be based on more detailed characteristics than those used so far.

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