

MOLLUSC FAUNA OF SOME MARINE CAVES OF THE SORRENTINA
PENINSULA (NAPLES) (°)

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SUMMARY

The Mollusc fauna present in some marine caves of the Sorrentina Peninsula (Naples) is quite varied, over 45 species. Some of these are casual but others, because of repetitive collections can be considered spelaeophilic species.

RESUME

Le peuplement de Mollusques de quelques grottes de la presqu'île de Sorrento (Naples) est assez varié, plus de 45 espèces. Si quelques unes de ces espèces sont accidentales, beaucoup d'autres, qui ont été trouvées fréquemment, peuvent être considérés spéléophiles.

Following a more general research on marine caves biology (Balduzzi *et al.* 1980), the Molluscs of some underwater caves along the Sorrentina Peninsula were studied.

Samples were taken during June 1979 and 1980 in the caves called Mitigliano (M), Scaletta (S), Gemelli (G) and Zaffiro (Z). A total of 47 species were found and they can be subdivided as follows:

1) Casual species (found once): *Chiton corallinus* (M), *Emarginula papillosa* (?) (M), *Clanculus jussieui* (M), *Bittium reticulatum* (M), *Mitrella scripta* (M), *Conus mediterraneus* (Z), *Thuridilla hopei* (M), *Bouvieria ocellata* (M), *Bouvieria* sp. (M), *Aplysia fasciata* (M), *Glossodoris messinensis* (Z), *Gl. purpurea* (G), *Gl. krohni* (M), *Diaphorodoris alba* (S), *Phyllidia pulitzeri* (Z), *Phyllidia* sp. (Z), *Dendrodoris limbata* (M), *Coryphella pedata* (S), *Acar pulchella* (M), *Mytilaster minimus* (M), *Chlamys varia* (M), *Lima lima* (S).

2) Sporadic species (found 2-4 times): *Homalopoma sanguineum* (M), *Luria lurida* (M), *Muricopsis inermis* (S), *Buccinulum corneum* (M), *Cantharus d'orbigny* (M), *Cantharus* sp. (M), *Mitra cornea* (M), *Hyalina secalina* (M), *Glossodoris gracilis* (MS), *Gl. luteorosea* (S), *Flabellina affinis* (SZ), *Arca noae* (M), *Ostrea* sp. (SZ).

3) Common species in the studied caves (found at least 5 times): *Clanculus corallinus* (M), *Cl. cruciatus* (M), *Muricopsis cristata* (MS), *Hinia reticulata mamillata* (M), *H. in-crassata* (M), *H. costulata* (M), *Fusinus pulchellus* (MS), *Bouvieria aurantiaca* (MS), *Peltodoris atromaculata* (MSZ),

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Dendrodoxia grandiflora (MZ), *Spondylus gaederopus* (MSZ),
Lithophaga lithophaga (MSZ).

As the collections are casual and sporadic, it is impossible to make a comparison with the populations present in the single caves.

Certainly *Muricopsis cristata* is the most diffused species, while *Clanculus* spp. and *Hinia* spp. are very common in the Mitigliano cave. The latter, together with *Hyalina secalina*, are mostly present in the rough sediment which forms the bottom of the Mitigliano cave.

The study of the distribution of motile organisms inside the restricted habitats, appear quite useless and more information could be provided by bivalves, unfortunately limited to the first part of the caves.

Only *Arca noae* manages to settle also in the darker parts of the caves.

Each cave would seem therefore to have its own Mollusc fauna and also the data available in bibliography seem to confirm this general casualness.

Especial attention has been given to the Opisthobranchia, a group until now scarcely studied in this particular environment and which represents about 38 % of the species collected.

Literature cited

Balduzzi A., Boero F., Cattaneo R., Pansini M., Pessani D., Pronzato R. & Sarà M. 1980. Ricerche sull'insediamento dello zoobenthos in alcune grotte marine della Penisola Sorrentina. *Atti XII^o Congr. S.I.B.M., Bari, Maggio 1980.* (in press).