

BATHIMETRIC DISTRIBUTION OF THE EPIFAUNA OF A POSIDONIA MEADOW  
OF THE ISLE OF ISCHIA (NAPLES): HYDROIDS (°)

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SUMMARY

The composition and distribution of the hydroid fauna of a *Posidonia* meadow of the Isle of Ischia have been studied: they change while depth increases and even the species strictly epiphytic on *Posidonia* leaves don't have an homogeneous distribution. From this point of view *Posidonia* meadows can't be considered as an uniform environment.

RESUME

Dans l'étude de la composition et la distribution de la faune d'Hydroides dans un herbier de Posidonies de l'île d'Ischia on a observé qu'elles changent avec la profondeur et que même les espèces strictement épiphytes sur les feuilles de Posidonie n'ont pas une distribution homogène. De ce point de vue donc on ne peut pas considérer l'herbier de Posidonies comme un milieu uniforme.

The samplings were made at 1, 5, 15 and 30 m depth in the meadow of Lacco Ameno (Ischia, Naples), by using the method described by Balduzzi *et al.* (in press): it consists in delimiting five contiguous sampling areas of a square meter each, the collections are made directly by a specialist of the group in order to individuate the specimens still in the field.

Thirty-five species of Hydroids have been identified: 15 on leaves (l), 10 on rhizomes (r), 10 on leaves and rhizomes (lr).

Four groups of species can be distinguished: 1) species collected at every depth: *Coryne pintneri* (lr), *Scandia pocillum* (lr), *Clytia linearis* (lr), *Clytia hemisphaerica* (lr), *Halecium pusillum* (l), *Plumularia obliqua* (l), *Eudendrium ramosum* (r); 2) superficial species: *Clytia noliformis* (lr), *Clava multicornis* (l), *Eudendrium motzkossowskiae* (l), *Campanularia everta* (l), *Dynamena disticha* (l), *Amphinema dinema* (r), *Eudendrium capillare* (r); 3) species collected at intermediate levels: *Sertularella gaudichaudi* (lr), *Ventromma halecioides* (lr), *Campanularia asymmetrica* (l), *Sertularia perpusilla* (l), *Kirchenpaueria echinulata* (l), *Aglaophenia harpago* (l), *Coryne pusilla* (l), *Cladocoryne floccosa* (r), *Cordylophora neapolitana* (r), *Halecium mediterraneum* (r), *Halopteris diaphana* (r), *Halecium nanum* (lr), *Clytia paulensis* (lr), *Stylactis inermis* (l), *Halecium tenellum* (r); 4) species collected at deep levels: *Antennella secundaria* (lr), *Lafoeina tenuis* (l), *Philellum serpens* (l), *Obelia dichotoma* (l), *Sertularella polyzonias* (l), *Merona cornucopiae* (r).

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The three hydroid species that are strictly epiphytic on *Posidonia* leaves don't have an homogeneous distribution: *Campanularia asymmetrica* was collected at 1 and 5 m depth; *Sertularia perpusilla* is frequent at 1 and 5 m, rare at 15m; *Aglaophenia harpago* is frequent at 5 and 15 m, rare at 30 m. These settling levels show that strictly epiphytic hydroids on *Posidonia* have a superficial and intermediate distribution.

Furthermore the hydroid population is differentiated at the various depths. From this point of view *Posidonia* meadows can't be considered as an uniform environment if depth-related faunistic zones can be individuated in them.

#### Literature cited.

Balduzzi A., F. Boero, M. Pansini and R. Pronzato 1980. A method for semiquantitative samplings of the sessile epifauna of the *Posidonia oceanica* beds. *Rapp. Comm. int. Mer. Médit.* (in press).