

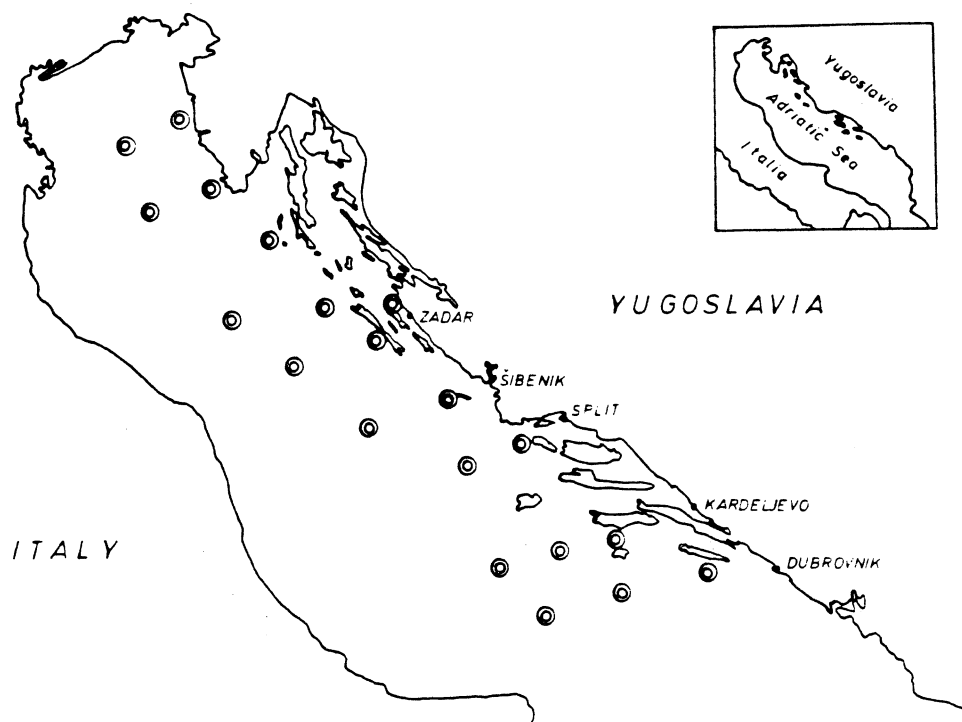
THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF COPEPODS IN THE NET ZOOPLANKTON OF THE  
ADRIATIC SEA

Dubravka REGNER

Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Split, Yugoslavia

The composition of the net zooplankton along the eastern Adriatic coast is discussed in winter and spring 1982.

This study gives some results on the composition of the net zooplankton of the Adriatic Sea. The investigations were carried out along the eastern Adriatic coast, from the coastal waters to the middle line, during the Yugoslav fishexpedition in March and April 1982.



The zooplankton samples were taken at twenty stations by vertical hauls of a "Hensen" plankton net (73/100, 330 ), from the bottom to the surface (Fig. 1). The depth of investigated stations varied from 20 m to 165 m, and the results obtained gave the picture of the winter-spring aspect of zooplankton composition.

Analyses of the results confirmed that the copepods, with their participation, were quantitatively the most important group in the net zooplankton of the eastern Adriatic. At all stations they prevailed with 48-70% of the whole zooplankton. It was interesting to notice that the percentage of copepods slightly increased from the coastal waters to the open sea. In the coastal region they were presented with 48-60% among the other zooplankton organisms; at the open sea their percentage varied from 52 to 70%.

Among the other zooplankton organisms, Phyllopora, Siphonophora and Copelata took part in the biggest percentage, and the rest groups were found in much smaller quantities. The percentage of Copelata varied from 10 to 29,5%, Siphonophora 8-20% and Phyllopora from 7 to 17% (Table 1).

Table 1. The best represented planktonic groups in the net zooplankton of the Adriatic Sea

Copepoda	48-70%
Copelata	10-29,5%
Siphonophora	8-20%
Phyllopora	7-17%

The group Copelata was more numerous at the stations near coast (till 29,5%), than at the open sea where they were presented till 15,6%. The same we have found for Phyllopora, because they were presented till 17% near the coast, and till 7% at the open sea. On the contrary, as it could be seen from the Table 2 Siphonophora were more numerous at the open sea (till 20%) than near the coast (till 17,9%).

Table 2. The maximum percentage of dominant planktonic groups from the coastal waters to the open sea

	Siphonophora	Phyllopora	Copepoda	Copelata
coastal waters	17,9%	17%	60%	29,5%
open sea	20%	7%	70%	15,6%

The ratio between separate zooplankton groups was examined from the northern to the southern part of Adriatic, too. So the copepods

were represented with the biggest quantity in the central part of Adriatic Sea (infront of island Žirje, near Šibenik) and towards the north and the south, their percentage became smaller. However, they were more numerous at the northern part (till 57%), then at the southern one (till 50%). Opposite, Copelata were better represented in the southern (29%), then in the central (13%) and northern Adriatic (17%), just as Siphonophora, which percentage increases from the north (14%) to the south (20%). Phyllopoda were found to be numerous at the stations from north Adriatic (17%), while in the southern part they were among less frequent groups of zooplankton (Table 3).

Table 3. The maximum percentage of dominant planktonic groups from the northern to the southern Adriatic

	Siphonophora	Phyllopoda	Copepoda	Copelata
northern Adriatic	14%	17%	57%	17%
central Adriatic	17%	7%	66%	13%
southern Adriatic	20%	2%	50%	29%

The further investigations will cover the summer-autumnal aspect of relative importance of the best presented zooplankton groups at the Adriatic Sea.

