

THE COMPOSITION OF NET ZOOPLANKTON OF THE ADRIATIC SEA

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The composition of the net zooplankton of the western part of the Adriatic Sea is presented.

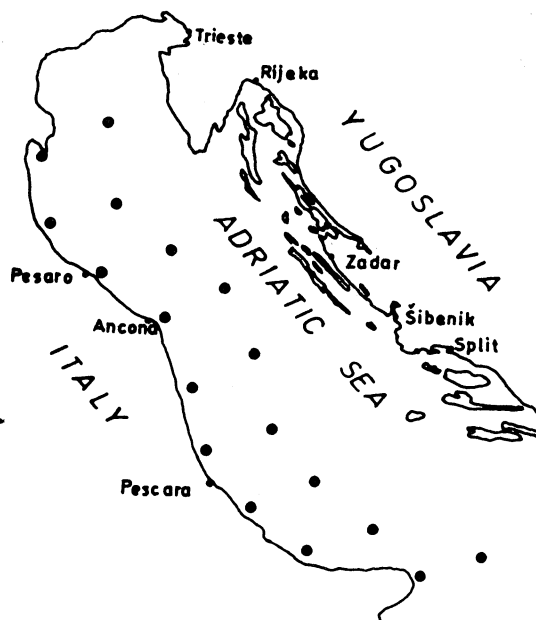
On a étudié la composition du zooplancton de la partie occidentale de la Mer Adriatique.

The data on the net zooplankton composition of the western part of the Adriatic Sea (from the mouth of river Po to the peninsula Monte Gargano) were obtained from the material which have been collected during the Italian-sardine egg survey. This survey was undertaken as a part of Yugoslav-Italian project of fish stock assessments. The results of similar investigations at the eastern part of Adriatic have been already published (Regner, D. 1983).

The samples were collected during the March 1981, with the double-oblique tows of "Bongo" plankton net (20 cm mouth aperture; 250 μ m meshsize). The net was towed to the depth of about 50 m.

Analysis of the results obtained showed that also in this part of Adriatic copepods were quantitatively the best represented group of the net zooplankton. At all the stations they were prevailing, making 41-99% of the total number of zooplankton organisms.

Copepods were more numerous in the coastal zone of the northern, then in the southern Adriatic. The differences were up to 50%. At the open sea the copepods were also better represented in the northern Adriatic, and in southward direction their participation decreased for about 30 %.



Tab. 1. The percentages of participation of copepods (means) in the western part of the Adriatic

	Coastal waters	Open sea
Northern Adriatic	99 %	94 %
Central Adriatic	82 %	68 %
Southern Adriatic	41 %	61 %

Among the other zooplankton organisms Phyllopora and Mollusca larvae, followed by Siphonophora and Copelata took part in the biggest percentage, while the rest groups were found in much smaller quantities.

Tab. 2. The best represented zooplanktonic groups in the net zooplankton of the western part of the Adriatic

Copepoda	41 - 99 %
Mollusca larvae	1,23 - 23,5%
Phyllopora	3 - 21 %
Siphonophora	11 %
Copelata	6 %

Mollusca larvae in coastal zone of the central Adriatic took part with about 9%, while in the same zone of the southern Adriatic they were presented even up to 19%. The percentage of Phyllopora was about 21% in the southern Adriatic. In the coastal waters of southern Adriatic the groups of Siphonophora and Copelata were fairly well presented, with the percentage of 11% and 6% respectively.

At the open sea of the northern and central Adriatic, the number of copepods was smaller than in the coastal waters, while in the southern part the number of copepods slightly increased towards the open sea (Tab.1).

Among the other groups, the Mollusca larvae were also prevailing at the open sea with the percentages of 1,2% in the northern, 23,5% in the central, and 21% in the southern Adriatic. Phyllopora were represented from 3,4 in the central to 6,6 in the southern Adriatic.

Although the sampling technique was different from that used in the investigations of the eastern Adriatic, the relationships among the zooplankton groups were found to be similar (R e g n e r, D.1983). Only the larvae of Mollusca, particularly those of Bivalvia were much more abundant in the western than in the eastern part of the Adriatic.

R e g n e r, D. 1983 - The relative importance of copepods in the net zooplankton of the Adriatic Sea. Rapp.Comm.int.Mer Médit., 28, 9.