

**Contribution to the knowledge of the accompanying fauna of *Aristeus antennatus* (Risso, 1816) on the bathyal bottoms in the S.E. of Spain**

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On the epibathyal and mesobathyal bottoms of the continental talus of the S.E. of Spain, there are some fishing areas relatively abounding in *Aristeus antennatus* (Risso, 1816). Some samplings of the captures of *A. antennatus* have been achieved from 1.987 in these areas subjected to fishing exploitation, noting down the accompanying species which came up during the different trawling.

Later some experimental fisheries have been carried out in the same areas, with the usual mesh used in this fishery, joining firmly at the cod-end another thicker net, separating and identifying the different species. This has allowed to work out some faunistic lists indicating the abundance of each species.

The relations between *A. antennatus* and its possible predators and preys have been studied in several areas of the western Mediterranean: in the Ligurian Sea, RELINI ORSI AND WURTZ (1.977), RELINI AND ORSI RELINI (1987) and in the Catalan Coast CARTES AND SARDA (1989).

The first results obtained in the Spanish South-east are shown in this work, pointing out that in all the sampling areas the main species which show up on the thicker net are the following: *Symphurus ligulatus* and *Symphurus nigrescens* which mean between 5,5-9,5 cm., with a maximum of 6,5 cm. (28%). Several species of Mictophidae show up also, although in a slight proportion. The main crustaceans dominating are: *Pasiphaea sivado*, depending on the area it varies between 1,6% and 12% of the whole capture, being the cephalothorax length (Lc) of 9 and 21 mm. classes and a maximum of 15% in individuals of Lc= 19 mm., there are also some egged-females (Lc= 18 mm.) and *Plesionika heterocarpus*.

On the cod-end the main predators are: *Scyliorhinus canicula* and *Galeus melastomus*, the former was very abundant in the sampling area of less depth (275-400 mts.) representing 24% of the whole capture, the latter has a steady presence, the size has a wide range 10,5-61,5 cm., the higher percentages are in 13 and 14 cm. (17%).

Among the species of fishing interest *A. antennatus* stands out, its abundance in all the cases was over 50% of the whole capture of commercial species. Among the fish *Micromesistius poutassou* is very abundant in the epibathyal area, the captured individuals are of 7-37 cm., although more than 50% of the whole of the sampling ones are between 16,5-19,5 cm. classes. On the mesobathyal bottoms *Phycis blennoides* has a steady presence, its capture has varied being sometimes 12%, these individuals fluctuate between 11-41 cm., corresponding those with a higher size to the deep areas (650 mts.), 52% of the sampling individuals are between 14-16,5 cm.. Another characteristic species is *Helicolenus dactylopterus*, being 85% of the examined individuals between 9,5-16,5 cm., corresponding the higher percentages (9,3%) to a whole length equal to 10,5 cm.

In this Table we show some species captured in the fishing areas of *Aristeus antennatus*:

**F I S H**

- Fam. Macrouridae  
 - *Coelorhynchus coelorhynchus* (Risso, 1810)  
 - *Nezumia sclerorhynchus* (Valenciennes, 1838)  
 - *Trachyrhynchus trachyrhynchus* (Risso, 1810)
- Fam. Squalidae  
 - *Etmopterus spinax* (Linnaeus, 1758)
- Fam. Scyliorhinidae  
 - *Galeus melastomus* (Rafinesque, 1810)  
 - *Scyliorhinus canicula* (Linnaeus, 1758)
- Fam. Congridae  
 - *Conger conger* (Linnaeus, 1758)
- Fam. Gadidae  
 - *Micromesistius poutassou* (Risso, 1826)  
 - *Phycis blennoides* (Brünich, 1768)  
 - *Antonogadus megalokynodon* (Kolombatovic, 1894)
- Fam. Stomiidae  
 - *Stomias boa* (Risso, 1810)
- Fam. Alepocephalidae  
 - *Alepocephalus rostratus* (Risso, 1820)
- Fam. Trachichthyidae  
 - *Hoplostethus mediterraneus* (Cuvier, 1829)

**C R U S T A C E A N S**

- Fam. Pandalidae  
 - *Plesionika martia* (A. Milne Edwards, 1883)  
 - *Plesionika edwardsii* (Brant, 1851)  
 - *Plesionika gigliolii* (Senna, 1903)
- Fam. Polychelidae  
 - *Polycheles typhlops* Heller, 1862
- Fam. Xanthidae  
 - *Geryon longipes* A. Milne Edwards, 1881
- Fam. Homolidae  
 - *Paramola cuvieri* (Risso, 1816)

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