Changes in Adriatic non-crustacean zooplankton community - influence of hydroclimatic changes

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- 492 zooplankton samples were analyzed from 1993 to 2011.



Sampling stations with different circulation patterns in Ionian Sea, after Gačić et al. (2010)









Appendicularian diversity in the Adriatic

- largely under-investigated group
- Last systematic investigation in the Adriatic was in late 1970s.
- Since 2007 twelve new species for the Adriatic were found (2 of those new to the science).



Species overlooked in 90s, potential indicators of MAW

Newly recorded species (from 2007 onwards), potential indicators of MAW

New species to the science



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500 µm







- Fritillaria helenae was found in 2014
- First record after its description by Bückmann from the Atlantic in 1924
- found in the same samples as Brooksia lacromae sp. nov.







Description of *Brooksia lacromae* sp. nov. Garić & Batistić, 2016 (accepted for publication in European Journal of Taxonomy)

- Described from specimens found at Lokrum monitoring station in 2014.
- 1.5% uncorrected pairwise differences between *B.* lacromae and *B. rostrata* 18S rRNA sequence
- Both forms were sequenced (aggregate and solitary) to confirm identity



solitary form

aggregate form

Brooksia lacromae sp. nov.



aggregate generation (blastozooids)





Brooksia rostrata (drawing from Thompson, 1945)

Brooksia lacromae (Garić & Batistić, 2016)

Brooksia rostrata (drawing from Fedele, 1926)





Salpa rostrata

solitaria.





Brooksia rostrata (Traustedt, 1893)

Brooksia rostrata (Apstein, 1893)

Brooksia rostrata (Sigl, 1912)



Brooksia rostrata (Ihle, 1910)



Re-establishment of Bougainvillia triestina Hartlaub, 1911

 Described by Hartlaub in 1911 from the Gulf of Trieste



B. triestina Hartlaub, 1911

- In 1913 cancelled by Neppi & Stiasny
- In 1948 described by Babnik as *B. autumnalis var. magna*
- In 1977 cancelled again by Schmidt & Benović
- In 2016 re-established by Batistić & Garić in Marine ecology – an evolutionary perspective after morphological and genetic analysis

B. autumnalis var. magna Babnik, 1948





- Seems to prefer productive enclosed areas
- Possibly present in other parts of Mediterranean but confused with *B. muscus*

- closest to *B. carolinensis* which Inhabits western Atlantic coasts (0.12 % uncorrected pairwise distance, based on 18S rRNA)





B. carolinensis (drawing from Hargitt, 1905)



B. muscus

B. triestina

Discovery of Pelagia benovici

 Described in 2014 by Italian collegues from North Adriatic waters



Pelagia benovici Piraino, Aglieri, Scorrano & Boero, 2014

Conclusions

- In the last 20 years there is a sharp increase of alien species
- The majority of the recorded alien species are warm/temperate water species
- For some tropical species, the Adriatic is still unsuitable environment
- Cold/temperate species arrive only during anticyclonic phase (or their within-group contribution increases)
- A pronounced influence of BiOS is detected in established alien species populations in the Adriatic
- The arrival and survival of aliens of different thermal preference is likely influenced by the BiOS and the thermal characteristics of particular year (and possibly the sea temperatures in Atlantic?)
- In order to detect changes in plankton communities the continuous species-level investigations are necessary
- Diversity of gelatinous zooplankton is still heavily under-investigated





temperature (avg. 200-800 m)