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**Why *Clausocalanus furcatus* occurs over a wide latitudinal range throughout the world?**

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*Clausocalanus furcatus* is known for its widespread distribution and ecological importance. Although spatial and temporal distributions of this species are well documented, there is scarcity of data on its feeding behaviour under natural conditions. The present study investigates the copepod feeding performance based on food size spectra (dinoflagellates and ciliates), in the Hellenic Seas including a variety of environments from offshore to coastal waters. The increase in food availability was triggering an increase in ingestion rates and selectivity. Food selectivity was increased in the higher food size spectra. Egg production was not affected by the feeding behaviour. We suggest that is characterized by flexibility in exploiting the available prey.

Keywords: *Clausocalanus furcatus*, copepods, feeding selection, eastern Mediterranean

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