POLYCHAETOUS ANNELIDS OF SOFT BOTTOMS AROUND THE GULF OF CATANIA (SICILY)

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Summary

The Polychaetous Annelids dredged from soft bottoms at depths between 6 and 118 m in 50 stations of Catania Gulf are studied and their distribution analyzed and discussed.116 species were found,3 of which(Notopygos megalops,Epidiopatra hupferiana monroi,Pista unibranchia)had never been found in the Mediter= ranean sea before.

Résumé

Les Auteurs étudient la distribution des Polychètes des fonds meubles du Golfe de Catania(Sicile),ã partir de 6 jusqu'à' 118 m de profondeur . 116 espèces ont été déterminées dont 3(Noto= pygos megalops,Epidiopatra hupferiana monroi,Pista unibranchia) sont nouvelles pour la Méditerranée.

This paper deals with the distribution of soft bottoms Polychae= tes around the Gulf of Catania and represents the first contri= bution in this subject relatively to the Sicilian coasts.
Samples were collected in 50 stations from Acitrezza(Catania)to the Campolato Cape(Siracusa)at depths between 6 and 118 meters, along nine transects perpendicularly to the coast.A dredge CHARCOT-PICARD(50 dm^3 capacity scoop)was used and the samples were sorted with 1 mm sieves.
Sediments resulted to be distributed in granulometric bands pa= rallel to the coast:inshore there are sands more or less silty, followed by sand or clay silt;offshore clay more or less silty.
14.530 individuals belonging to 116 species and 35 families were collected.Notopygos megalops Mc Intosh,Epidiopatra hupferiana monroi Day,Pista unibranchia Day had never been found in the Me= diterranean Sea before.
26 species were present in any type of bottom and 32 species were

found only once with a single individual.The remaining 58 spe=
cies were all present in the mixed sediments(sand,silt,clay)
with more than 4.000 individuals;only 37 of then were present
in the bottoms with sandy and silty sediments;only typical spe=
cies of sandy bottoms were abundant,while the others were scar=
cely represented.Bottoms with silt and clay were more similar
to those with mixed sediments than to the sandy ones,since they
were richer both in species(46)and in individuals.
In conclusion,in the Gulf of Catania,where there are no "pure"
bottoms,but mixtures of at least two components,it is difficult
to identify clearly defined populations;when the components are
two,species of both types of bottoms are present;when the sedi=
ment is represented by three components,there is a clear increa=
se both in species and in individuals,where each time the species
typical of the most abundant component predominate.