THE EUPHAUSIACEAN FAUNA (MALACOSTRACA) OF THE AEGEAN SEA, AND COMPARISON WITH THOSE OF THE NEIGHBOURING SEAS

BY

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ABSTRACT

Sampling carried out in the Aegean Sea with the use of a mid-water trawl, yielded eight species of Euphausiacea, two of which (Nematoscelis atlantica and Stylocheiron maximum) are reported for the first time from the northern Aegean. Concerning the above eight species as well as five others also known from the Mediterranean, information is given on their distribution in the main geographical areas of the Mediterranean and the adjacent oceans.

RÉSUMÉ

Un échantillonnage réalisé en mer Égée à l’aide d’un chalut pélagique a permis de récolter huit espèces d’Euphausiacea dont deux (Nematoscelis atlantica et Stylocheiron maximum) sont rapportées pour la première fois de la mer Égée septentrionale. Des informations sont données sur ces huit espèces ainsi que sur cinq autres connues en Méditerranée, concernant leur répartition dans les principales régions géographiques de la mer Méditerranée et des océans attenants.

INTRODUCTION

A review of the relevant literature shows that the existing information on the Mediterranean Euphausiacea has been given mainly in the older papers of Ruud (1936), Franqueville (1971), and Casanova (1974). Concerning the Aegean Sea, twelve species of euphausiaceans are known, seven of which have been reported from the surface and shallow waters of the northern Aegean (Ruud, 1936; Kiortsis, 1969), while there is no information on the deep-water euphausiids of this area.

This paper includes: (i) new information on the euphausiacean fauna of the Aegean Sea, and (ii) a comparison of the Aegean fauna with those of the neighbouring seas.

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MATERIAL AND METHODS

In all 11,862 euphausiid specimens, collected from 16 stations located in the Aegean Sea (fig. 1), were examined. The samples were obtained using a mid-water trawl with a net of 3.0 mm mesh and by various fishing nets, at depths of 10-1,000 m. All samplings were carried out during daytime. The specimens have been deposited in the Museum of the Department of Zoology, Aristoteleio University of Thessaloniki (MDZAUT).

Fig. 1. Map of the Aegean Sea, indicating the sampling stations.