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ITALIAN BRACKISH AND MARINE OSTRACOD FAUNA

In the literature, there are many studies concerning ostracods in the Italian seas. Among the most relevant are the evergreen monograph of Müller (1894) about the ostracods from the Gulf of Naples, the publications of BONADUCE *et al.*, 1976 and BREMAN, 1976 about the Adriatic Sea, PURI *et al.*, 1964, again about the Gulf of Naples and BONADUCE *et al.*, 1977 about the southern Tyrrhenian Sea. In addition, different authors centered their research in smaller areas of the Italian coasts (MONTENEGRO *et al.*, 1998; SCIUTO & ROSSO, 2002; ARBULLA *et al.*, 2004; SCIUTO, in progress;) proposed a synthesis of the most abundant and more easily identifiable ostracods from the Italian shelves, linking their occurrence to some environmental factors such as bathymetry and substrate. Ten different ostracod assemblages were observed in relation to the type of substrate, and nine bathymetric assemblages were detected. Evident changes of the autochthonous ostracod fauna were recorded at 50-60 m, 90-100 m and 125-150 m, corresponding to the infralittoral-circalittoral, inner-middle circalittoral and middle-outer circalittoral boundaries respectively.

More recently, AIELLO & BARRA (2010) have published a checklist of the Italian marine ostracods, reporting 377 ostracod species from the screening of 84 papers.

In this contribution, we present an updated database of the ostracod species pertaining to the infralittoral and circalittoral zones, together with those occurring in lagoon, intertidal, submarine cave and deep water settings. Furthermore, we intend to highlight the links between the ostracod assemblages

recorded all along the coasts of the Italian peninsula, Sicily and Sardinia, and some environmental parameters. The main issue is the heterogeneous geographic distribution of the data; we have used the most updated literature, including unpublished data collections as well as reports about ostracod occurrence in natural parks, reserves or SCI (Sites of Community Importance).

Such research intends to realize a synthesis of these data, which could be used as an integrative support, focused on the Mediterranean Sea, to the already existing available databases of the European Marine Biodiversity Research Site and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.

The aim of this work is to propose a straightforward database containing taxonomic, including possible synonymies, ecological and geographical information. We also think that this database might be a starting point for the achievement of a more complete database covering the whole Mediterranean area.

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