

Resting eggs of zooplankton (Copepoda and Cladocera) from the Kiel Bay and adjacent waters (southwestern Baltic)

M. Madhupratap, S. Nehring, J. Lenz

[Madhupratap, M., Nehring, S. & Lenz, J. (1996): Resting eggs of zooplankton (Copepoda and Cladocera) from the Kiel Bay and adjacent waters (southwestern Baltic). – Marine Biology 125: 77-87]

Received: 4 August 1995/Accepted: 24 October 1995

Abstract

Abstract Resting eggs of four species of calanoid copepods and three species of cladocerans were collected from sediments up to 5 cm depth from the Kiel Bay and adjacent waters in the southwestern Baltic Sea during April-May 1994. All but one species of cladoceran was successfully hatched/reared in the laboratory. In the Kiel Bay, egg abundances varied from 1.8×10^5 to $7.4 \times 10^5 \text{ m}^{-2}$. Hatching success of copepod eggs collected from all depths was high (49 to 94%), but was 0 to 79% for cladoceran eggs. Darkness did not seem to affect hatching. Eggs found in the 4 to 5 cm layer of sediment were estimated to be about 15 yr old, showing the presence of an "egg bank" in the Baltic. Formation of resting eggs may be a genetic trait acquired during the ice ages.

Communicated by O. Kinne, Oldendorf/Luhe

M. Madhupratap¹, S. Nehring, J. Lenz
Institut für Meereskunde, Düsternbrooker Weg 20, D-24105 Kiel, Germany

Present address:

¹ National Institute of Oceanography, Dona Paula,
Goa 403 004, India

A reprint of the paper can be obtained as pdf by giving the title in an email to info@StefanNehring.de