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Spatial heterogeneity of phytoplankton assemblages in tidepools: effects of abiotic and biotic factors

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ABSTRACT: In any ecological system, the factors that regulate the abundance of species vary with spatial scale; therefore, the sources of spatial variability should be described. We examined different sources of variability in the spatial distribution of phytoplankton assemblages and biotic (e.g. planktonic and benthic micrograzers, mussels) and abiotic (e.g. nutrients, temperature, salinity, pH) factors that may regulate these assemblages in 4 tidepools at each of 3 intertidal zones (mid, high and splash) on a rocky shore in Nova Scotia, Canada, over a period of 15 mo. Stratum (defined as the depth within a pool) was a significant source of variability, particularly for pennate diatoms which were consistently more abundant near the bottom of pools. There was no indication of vertical zonation of the phytoplankton assemblages along the intertidal gradient, and differences among zones rarely explained more than 30% of the spatial variability in phytoplankton abundance. Also, among-zone variation was not apparent for the biotic and abiotic factors. We suggest that among-zone variability in these factors does not adequately explain vertical variability in phytoplankton assemblages. All groups of phytoplankton varied significantly among pools within intertidal zones on most sampling dates, and differences among pools explained up to 96% of the variability in phytoplankton abundance. Furthermore, there was significant variability among pools within zones for all biotic and abiotic characteristics of the pools on most sampling dates. We detected significant relationships between the density of benthic micrograzers and small mussels, and the concentration of nutrients in individual pools with the abundance of pennate diatoms, cryptomonads and chlorophytes. Among the abiotic characteristics of the tidepools, there was a significant relationship between flushing rate and temperature of individual pools, with the abundance of cryptomonads and chlorophytes. We suggest that the factors that regulate phytoplankton assemblages in tidepools probably operate more at the scale of the individual pool rather than the intertidal zone.

KEY WORDS: Community regulation · Community structure · Intertidal gradient · Phytoplankton · Spatial scales · Tidepools · Zonation

INTRODUCTION

The importance of spatial variability in ecological processes and community organization has been emphasized in recent studies (Addicott et al. 1987, Wiegert 1988, Wiens 1989). In any ecological system, different patterns of species abundance and community organization emerge at different spatial scales of investigation and the relative importance of small-scale phenomema versus broader-scale processes indicates the 'openness' of the system (Wiens 1989). Levin (1992) recommended that patterns of variability in community organization within and across systems must be described if prediction of community dynamics is to be successful. Both the small-scale phenomena and the broad-scale processes that affect an ecological system have to be defined before their relative importance can be assessed. The importance of sampling procedures in examining variability at different spatial scales has been emphasized (see Andrew & Mapstone

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1987 for review) and statistical and numerical models have been developed that examine the different sources of spatial variability (e.g. Morris 1987, Perry 1988, Downes et al. 1993).

Community structure and organization have been studied extensively on rocky intertidal shores (e.g Stephenson & Stephenson 1950, 1952, 1954a, b, Dayton 1971, Connell 1972, Menge 1976, Underwood 1981a). Research on this system has provided useful concepts, empirical evidence and models that are applicable to many other communities (e.g. Paine 1966, Connell 1983, Sousa 1984a, b). Studies of community structure of rocky intertidal shores have largely focussed on the ubiquitous vertical zonation of organisms along the intertidal gradient (e.g. Connell 1961, Dayton 1971, Paine 1974, Lubchenco & Menge 1978, Schonbeck & Norton 1978, Denley & Underwood 1979). Recent studies, however, have attempted to identify and describe potential sources of natural variability at different spatial scales (from meters to kilometres) (e.g. Underwood & Denley 1984, Caffey 1985, Jernakoff & Fairweather 1985, McGuinness 1987a, b, Foster 1990, Lively et al. 1993). These studies have shown that spatial variability on rocky intertidal shores does not change monotonically with scale, i.e. variability does not always increase or decrease at larger spatial scales. The extent to which small-scale variability can affect the outcome of large-scale processes has not been established yet.

Tidepools are a conspicuous component of the rocky intertidal habitat that are less frequently studied than the emergent substrata. However, because of their well-defined boundaries and manageable size, tidepools provide a useful system for examining sources of variability at different spatial scales. The biological zonation which characterizes the emergent substrata is not as apparent in tidepools (see Metaxas & Scheibling 1993 for review, Metaxas & Scheibling 1994a, Metaxas et al. 1994). Spatial variability in community structure is probably larger among pools than among locations on the emergent substrata at the same spatial scale since the physical characteristics of tidepools (e.g pool depth, volume, orientation and flushing rate) make individual pools unique (Metaxas & Scheibling 1993). Metaxas & Scheibling (1994a) and Metaxas et al. (1994) showed that small-scale variability among pools within intertidal zones may mask the broader-scale zonation observed on emergent substrata, at least for some functional groups of macro- and hyperbenthos.

Microalgae, particularly pennate diatoms, are among the first colonizers of bare rocky intertidal shores (Sousa 1979, MacLulich 1986) and may exhibit vertical zonation on emergent substrata. Earlier studies have shown that some benthic diatoms, such as the pennate diatom *Acnanthes*, are more abundant higher on the shore while others, such as the centric diatom *Melosira*, are more abundant lower on the shore (Aleem 1950, Castenholz 1963, Hopkins 1964). Recently, however, Hill & Hawkins (1991) found large horizontal spatial variability in the abundance of epilithic diatoms on a rocky shore on the Isle of Man, UK.

Very few studies have examined the distribution and abundance of microalgae in tidepools on rocky shores (see Metaxas & Scheibling 1993). Droop (1953) provided a classification of pools on the basis of their phytoplankton assemblages which varied along the intertidal gradient. Metaxas & Lewis (1992) found that the abundance of centric diatoms decreased in pools higher on the shore while that of pennate diatoms tended to increase. Neither of these studies, however, used replicate pools within zones to determine whether the observed pattern would persist across space. Dethier (1984) used a large number of tidepools and found that diatoms were more abundant in lower pools of protected shores. However, she did not quantify horizontal spatial variability and only examined the diatom community of the benthos, not the water column of the pools.

It is well established that phytoplankton community structure in large aquatic systems such as lakes and the open ocean can be directly affected by nutrients and/or herbivory. Spring and fall phytoplankton blooms are triggered by increased nutrient concentrations in the euphotic zone after vertical mixing; blooms collapse because of nutrient depletion, cell sinking or increased grazing (e.g. reviews in Reynolds et al. 1982, Harrison et al. 1983, Reid et al. 1990, Sommer 1991, Wassman 1991). The growth of different groups of phytoplankton is limited in different nutrient regimes and species can coexist when limited by different resources (Tilman 1977, but see Hobson 1988/1989). Conversely, nutrient uptake rates and efficiency vary among different groups of phytoplankton, and the nutrient levels in the environment can determine patterns of dominance and succession (Parsons et al. 1978, Vanni & Temte 1990, Gervais 1991, Pomeroy 1991, Sommer 1991). Selective grazing also may result in shifts in phytoplankton dominance (Vanni & Temte 1990, Gervais 1991, Sommer 1991).

In tidepool systems, microalgae are introduced through input from the surrounding seawater, by the ascending tide and through spray. The microalgal assemblages subsequently become isolated from external input for extended periods of time, depending upon the period of isolation of the pool. During this period, the assemblage may change due to a number of factors (Metaxas & Scheibling 1994b). Phytoplankton may remain suspended because of buoyancy or motility (e.g. centric diatoms, flagellates, nanoflagel-

lates) or may sink to the bottom (e.g. benthic centric and pennate diatoms). Phytoplankon may be consumed by macrobenthic filter-feeders such as mussels, or planktonic filter-feeders such as calanoid copepods and rotifers. Benthic micrograzers such as harpacticoid copepods may consume microalgae that have sunk to the bottom of the pool. The nutrient regime can change either through uptake by micro- and macroalgae or through excretion by the fauna. The physical conditions of the pools can change and may even reach lethal limits for certain groups of microalgae. The magnitude of changes affecting the phytoplankton assemblage will depend on the length of the period of tidal isolation of the pool. Predictable zonation patterns may arise if the magnitudes of change are similar among pools with similar periods of isolation (within the same intertidal zone). However, horizontal spatial variability among pools within zones may mask the broad-scale phenomenon of zonation.

We examined the sources of vertical and horizontal spatial variability of phytoplankton assemblages in tidepools located in 3 intertidal zones over a period of 16 mo. Specifically, we wanted to determine whether the broad-scale phenomenon of intertidal zonation is evident in these assemblages, or whether the horizontal spatial variability in the abundance of phytoplankton among tidepools within intertidal zones overrides any pattern of zonation. We also measured the sources of spatial variability in the nutrient regime, the grazer field, and in a number of abiotic characteristics of the tidepools to determine whether variability in abiotic and biotic factors could explain the observed patterns of phytoplankton abundance at these spatial scales.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Four tidepools at each of 3 intertidal zones (mid, high and splash) were sampled at Cranberry Cove, an exposed rocky shore near Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada (44° 28' N, 63° 56' W) at approximately monthly intervals between March 1991 and June 1992. We did not sample between December 1991 and March 1992 because the pools were frozen during this period. The shoreline consists of granitic platforms and large outcrops with a 10 to 30% grade. It has a southern exposure to oceanic swells which may reach wave heights of up to 10 m during autumn storms. The pools were distributed along ca 250 m of shoreline. The pools were irregularly shaped with the maximum dimension ranging from 2 to 14 m and maximum depth ranging from 0.21 to 0.75 m. To estimate pool area and volume, parallel transect lines were set at 0.5 m intervals along the length of each pool to either side of a central line. Length was measured along each transect line and width was measured at 0.5 m intervals along the central line. This provided a map of the pool perimeter which was then digitized to estimate surface area. Pool depth was measured at 0.3 m intervals along each of the widthwise transects, subdividing the pool into a grid of 0.5 × 0.3 m subunits (units around the perimeter were smaller). Average depth within each subunit was estimated by averaging the depths at each corner, and the volume of each tidepool estimated by summing the subunit volumes. The period of isolation of each pool was measured on 17 dates (June 1990, and at 2 to 6 wk intervals between March 1991 and July 1992) as the period between tidal recession and subsequent tidal input (including spray) and averaged for each pool. The height above chart datum of each pool was measured using a transit level in July 1991 and 1992. Flushing rate of each pool was determined as the percentage decrease in concentration of a fluorescent red dye (Rhodamine B, Sigma®, St. Louis, MO, USA), added to the pools in known concentration, over the period between low and high tides (i.e. per half a tidal cycle). Decreases in the concentration of the dye were mainly due to tidal exchange, but also due to drainage of the pool, rain, adsorption onto the substratum and uptake by the biota. Changes in dye concentration were measured on a Perkin-Elmer Lambda 3B UV/VIS spectrophotometer. Flushing rate was measured on 9 July 1992, when wave height was between 2 and 3 m and it was raining lightly, and on 30 August 1993 when wave height was ~1 m and it was not raining.

For each sampling period, two 60 ml samples of phytoplankton were collected with a polypropylene syringe at each of 2 strata within each pool (at the surface and <1 cm above the bottom) and from the surrounding seawater at 2 locations along the shore, immediately below the 2 farthest pools. The phytoplankton samples were placed in a container and the syringe was rinsed into the same container using 20 ml of distilled water. The samples were preserved in Lugol's solution and stored in the dark for subsequent enumeration. Before counting, the phytoplankton samples were inverted 50 times, and subsamples were allowed to settle overnight in 25 ml settling chambers (Lund et al. 1958). Two samples of micrograzers were collected by hand-pumping 5 l of seawater from 0.1 to 0.2 m above the bottom of each tidepool, at approximately the mid depth of the pools, through a 60 µm net. The net was rinsed into a container and the sample fixed with 4% buffered formaldehyde. Two other samples were collected similarly from the surrounding seawater at the same locations as the phytoplankton samples. Phytoplankton and micrograzers were enumerated using a Leitz Labovert inverted microscope. Phytoplankton was identified according to Cupp (1943), Hendey (1964), Sournia (1986), Ricard (1987)

and Chrétiennot-Dinet (1990). Micrograzers were identified according to Smith (1964), Brinkhurst et al. (1976), Barnes (1980), and Gardner & Szabo (1982). Mussel density (*Mytilus edulis* and/or *M. trossulus*) was measured in five 0.2 × 0.2 m quadrats which were randomly located in each tidepool at each sampling date. Two 60 ml water samples were collected from each pool and at the 2 sea-surface locations for nutrient analysis with an acid-washed (1 N HCl) polypropylene syringe. These samples were filtered through 0.80 µm Millipore® filters into acid-washed polypropylene containers in the field, and frozen for subsequent analysis (our unpubl. data suggest that freezing over periods of 7 mo had no effect on the concentration of ammonium). Nitrate+nitrite, silicate and phosphate concentrations were measured in these samples using a Technicon AA2 autoanalyzer, and ammonium concentration was determined according to Parsons et al. (1984) on a Jenway 6100 spectrophotometer. The temperature of each pool and the surrounding seawater was measured using a hand-held thermometer; salinity was measured with an Endeco type 102 refractometer; and pH was measured with a Cole Palmer pH wand (Model 05830-00).

For statistical analysis, phytoplankton were assigned to 4 taxonomic groups: centric diatoms, pennate diatoms, cryptomonads, and chlorophytes (Table 1). This is a conventional grouping based on successional patterns (e.g. Vanni & Temte 1990, Venrick 1990, Haigh et al. 1992, Weeks et al. 1993). Micrograzers were grouped as benthic and planktonic according to their functional morphology and mode of feeding. Mussels were grouped into 3 size classes: small (<1 cm), medium (1 to 2 cm) and large (>2 cm) because filtering rate, and therefore effect on phytoplankton abundance, varies largely with mussel size (e.g. Winter 1973, Kemp et al. 1990). For each sampling date, differences in the abundance of phytoplankton for each taxonomic group, as well as differences in the abundance of total phytoplankton, were compared among intertidal zones (mid, high and splash), among pools nested within zones (4 per zone), and among strata (surface and bottom of the pools) using 3-factor nested ANOVA. The model used in the ANOVA was:

$$X_{ijkl} = \mu + \text{Stratum}_i + \text{Zone}_j + \text{Stratum} \times \text{Zone}_{ij} + \text{Pool(Zone)}_{k(j)} + \text{Stratum} \times \text{Pool(Zone)}_{ik(j)} + e_{l(ijk)}$$

The effect of the interaction term Stratum × Pool(Zone) was examined against the residual error, and the effects of the terms Stratum and Stratum × Zone were examined against the interaction term Stratum × Pool(Zone). In cases where the interaction term Stratum × Pool(Zone) was significant, the effect of the factor Stratum was examined within each zone. The effect of the factor Zone was examined against the factor Pool(Zone); if Pool(Zone) was not significant at $p > 0.250$, we pooled the term Pool(Zone) with the residual error and tested the effect of the factor Zone against the pooled error term. The magnitude of the experimental effect of each factor (ω^2) was calculated for each sampling date, based on models in Howell (1987), using mean square estimates that were defined according to Underwood (1981b).

Differences in densities of micrograzers and mussels, and nutrient concentrations were examined among intertidal zones and among pools nested within zones using 2-factor nested ANOVA, since stratum was not applicable. Differences in temperature, salinity and pH were examined among zones using single-factor ANOVA. The analyses of variance were based on models given in Winer (1971) and Underwood (1981b). *A posteriori* multiple comparisons of treatment means were done using Student-Newman-Keuls (SNK) tests. To avoid an increased probability of conducting a type I error due to the large number of analyses of variance, we used the sequential Bonferroni technique to obtain table-wide levels of significance (Rice 1989). In the ANOVA and SNK tests, the null hypothesis was rejected at $p < 0.05$.

Forward stepwise multiple regressions (Sokal & Rohlf 1981, Kleinbaum et al. 1988) were done to examine relationships between the abundance of each phytoplankton group at the surface and at the bottom of the pools with the abundance of planktonic and benthic micrograzers and mussels, the concentration of nutrients (nitrate+nitrite, ammonium, phosphate and silicate), the physical and chemical characteristics of the pools (temperature, salinity, pH, height above chart datum, volume and flushing rate) and the macroalgal cover in the pools as given in Metaxas et al. (1994). Regressions were carried out for the entire sampling period. The α-to-add value was 0.150.

For all statistical analyses, variables were $\ln(x+1)$-transformed to successfully remove heterogeneity of variance when detected using Cochran's test, or non-normality when detected in residual plots. All analyses were carried out using SYSTAT versions 5.1 and 5.2 (Wilkinson 1989) on a Macintosh SE 30 computer.

RESULTS

Spatial patterns of physical and chemical characteristics

The physical characteristics of the tidepools are given in Table 2. Since phytoplankton can be introduced into the pools through any amount of input of the surrounding seawater (including spray), we assigned replicate pools to intertidal zones according

Table 1 Frequency of occurrence (number of dates) of the species of phytoplankton that were identified in this study at the sea surface and in 4 tidepools (Pools 1 to 4) sampled in each of 3 zones (mid, high splash) on 14 sampling dates between March 1991 and June 1992

Taxonomic group	Sea surface	Mid pools				High pools				Splash pools			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Centric diatoms													
Chaetoceros spp.	6	6	5	4	5	4	4	3	4	5	3	4	5
Coscinodiscus spp.	2	2	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	2
Detonula confervacea	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leptocylindrus danicus	2	2	2	2	1	3	3	1	0	2	0	0	2
Melosira nummuloides	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Odontella aurita	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rhizosolenia alata	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
R. delicatula	4	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	1
R. fragilissima	2	2	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
R. setigera	3	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
R. styliformis	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skeletonema costatum	10	6	7	7	7	6	6	8	5	7	8	6	5
Thalassiosira gravida	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
T. hyalina	2	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
T. nordenskioldii	3	3	3	3	1	0	1	2	2	3	2	4	3
Pennate diatoms													
Amphiprora spp.	3	5	6	8	7	6	8	6	6	4	8	5	6
Amphora spp.	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	4	3	2	5	3	2
Campylosira cymbelliformis	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cylindrotheca closterium	9	11	11	13	11	10	12	8	8	3	8	7	4
Fragilaria crotonensis	5	6	3	4	2	1	4	3	4	3	2	1	2
Grammatophora angulosa	5	5	2	2	2	2	0	3	2	0	0	0	1
Gyrosigma sp.	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Licmophora gracilis	4	5	5	6	5	6	4	2	5	2	3	5	3
L. juergensii	10	13	11	12	11	10	10	10	9	7	9	13	7
Navicula spp.	11	13	12	11	10	6	7	9	7	5	8	5	5
Nitzschia delicatissima	5	1	4	3	2	3	5	1	2	1	5	3	2
N. longissima	7	2	3	4	4	2	1	6	3	3	4	4	1
N. seriata	7	4	5	3	4	1	4	3	3	5	2	3	3
Nitzschia spp.	11	14	13	14	13	12	13	11	11	9	11	10	10
Plagiogramma stauroforum	2	5	3	4	3	3	4	5	4	2	2	2	3
Striatella unipunctata	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surirella spp.	0	2	4	4	5	3	3	1	4	3	3	4	4
Thalassionema nitzschioides	0	1	2	0	1	2	1	3	0	1	1	1	1
Thalassiothrix frauenfeldii	4	5	1	3	3	4	1	2	1	1	2	2	3
Unidentified pennates	13	13	13	11	13	11	10	9	10	6	12	11	8
Cryptomonads													
Cryptomonas spp.	11	12	12	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Chlorophytes													
Dunaliella tertiolecta	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	5	5	6
Euglenoids													
Euglena spp.	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0

to the period of isolation from tidal input. Pools with average periods of isolation ranging from 3 to 8 h were assigned to the mid zone, those with periods ranging from 10 to 12 h were assigned to the high zone, and pools that usually did not receive any input over a cycle, except during storms, were assigned to the splash zone.

Mean temperature at the sea surface and in the tidepools increased from a low around March to a peak in July 1991 (Fig. 1). It remained high throughout summer and early autumn but decreased by November 1991. The increase between March and June 1992 was similar to that of the previous year. Mid pools were significantly (SNK test) colder than high and splash pools in June 1992 ($F_{2,9} = 11.65$, $p < 0.001$). Splash pools were significantly colder than mid and high pools in October 1991 ($F_{2,9} = 28.77$, $p < 0.001$). Mean salinity remained relatively constant at the sea surface and in the mid

Table 2. Physical characteristics of 4 tidepools (Pools 1 to 4) located in each of 3 intertidal zones (mid, high and splash) at Cranberry Cove, Nova Scotia, Canada. CD: chart datum; –: no recorded input during 12 h tidal cycle; SD: standard deviation

Intertidal zone	Surface area (m^2)	Maximum depth (m)	Volume (m^3)	Isolation period (h)	Height above CD (m)	Flushing rate per 1/2 tidal cycle (%)	
						July 1992	August 1993
Mid zone							
Pool 1	3.20	0.15	0.19	3	1.2	100	100
Pool 2	10.91	0.45	2.03	5	1.4	100	100
Pool 3	14.36	0.36	1.81	7	2.3	75	94
Pool 4	8.94	0.46	2.27	8	1.2	37	48
Mean ± SD	9.35 ± 4.67	0.36 ± 0.14	1.58 ± 0.94	6 ± 2	1.5 ± 0.5	78 ± 30	86 ± 25
High zone							
Pool 1	10.04	0.19	0.92	12	3.0	15	21
Pool 2	15.75	0.27	1.49	11	2.5	66	99
Pool 3	24.23	0.64	7.28	12	2.6	23	0
Pool 4	11.84	0.13	0.68	10	2.9	40	8
Mean ± SD	15.47 ± 6.31	0.31 ± 0.23	2.59 ± 3.14	11 ± 1	2.8 ± 0.2	36 ± 23	32 ± 46
Splash zone							
Pool 1	0.68	0.13	0.05	–	2.8	0	11
Pool 2	8.85	0.31	1.15	–	3.4	37	4
Pool 3	7.47	0.32	0.71	–	3.9	36	7
Pool 4	3.94	0.43	0.94	–	4.5	52	0
Mean ± SD	5.24 ± 3.67	0.30 ± 0.12	0.71 ± 0.48	–	3.7 ± 0.7	31 ± 22	6 ± 5

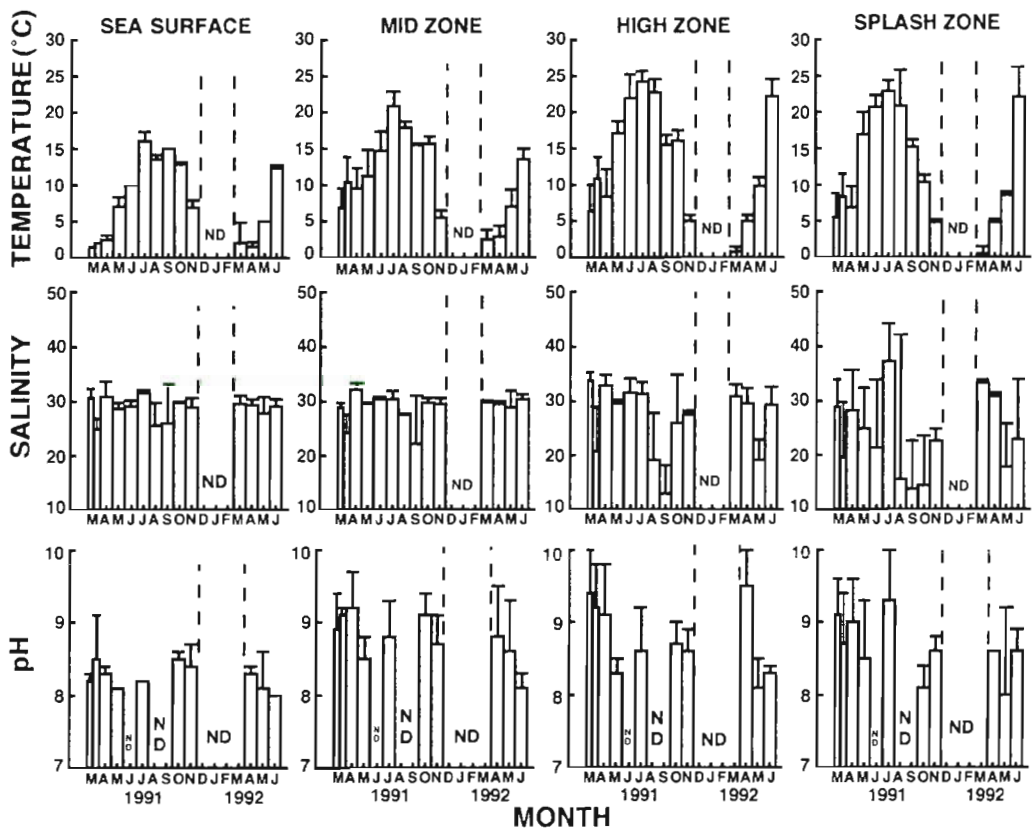

Fig. 1. Mean temperature, salinity and pH (±SD) at the sea surface (n = 2) and in tidepools (n = 4) in 3 intertidal zones (mid, high, splash) at Cranberry Cove, Nova Scotia, Canada, sampled at approximately monthly intervals between March and November 1991 and March and June 1992 (twice during the bloom in March 1991). ND: no data

pools over the 16 mo study, but was reduced significantly due to rain in splash pools in November 1991 ($F_{2,9} = 22.19$, $p < 0.001$) (Fig. 1). Mean pH at the sea surface did not fluctuate over the 16 mo, but was greater and more variable in the pools (Fig. 1); pH did not vary significantly among zones on any sampling date.

Spatial patterns of phytoplankton abundance

The abundance of total phytoplankton was greatest in the surrounding seawater in March 1991 and May 1992 due to spring blooms, and in October 1991 due to an autumn bloom (Fig. 2). Similar patterns of abundance were observed for centric diatoms, the dominant phytoplankton group during the blooms (Fig. 3). The abundance of pennate diatoms was greatest after the spring bloom in 1991 and around the bloom in 1992 (Fig. 4). Cryptomonads and chlorophytes were less abundant than diatoms: their mean abundance never exceeded 10^4 cells l^{-1} at the sea surface (Figs. 5 & 6).

In tidepools, the abundance of total phytoplankton and of individual taxonomic groups varied significantly between strata on a number of sampling dates. Total phytoplankton was more abundant at the bottom than at the surface of pools in spring (all pools: 17 March and April 1991, April 1992; splash pools: May 1992), and in autumn (all pools: October 1991) (Fig 2, Table 3). Centric diatoms were more abundant at the bottom than at the surface of all pools in October 1991 (Fig. 3, Table 4). Pennate diatoms were more abundant at the bottom than at the surface of pools in

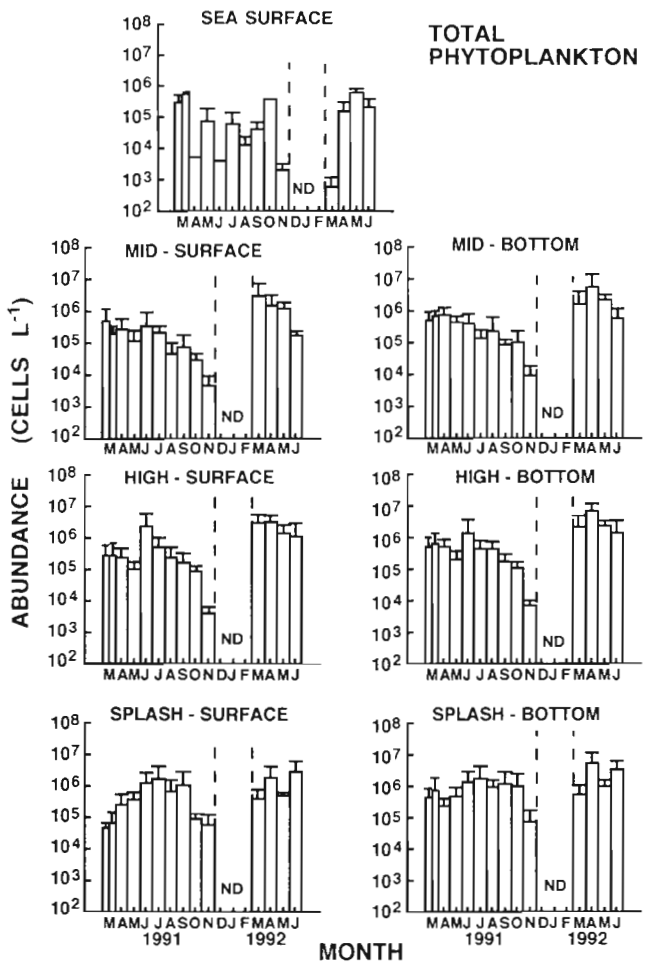

Fig. 2. Mean abundance of total phytoplankton (±SD) at the sea surface (n = 2) and at the surface and bottom of tidepools (n = 4) in 3 intertidal zones (mid, high, splash) at Cranberry Cove, Nova Scotia, sampled at approximately monthly intervals between March and November 1991 and March and June 1992 (twice during the bloom in March 1991). ND: no data

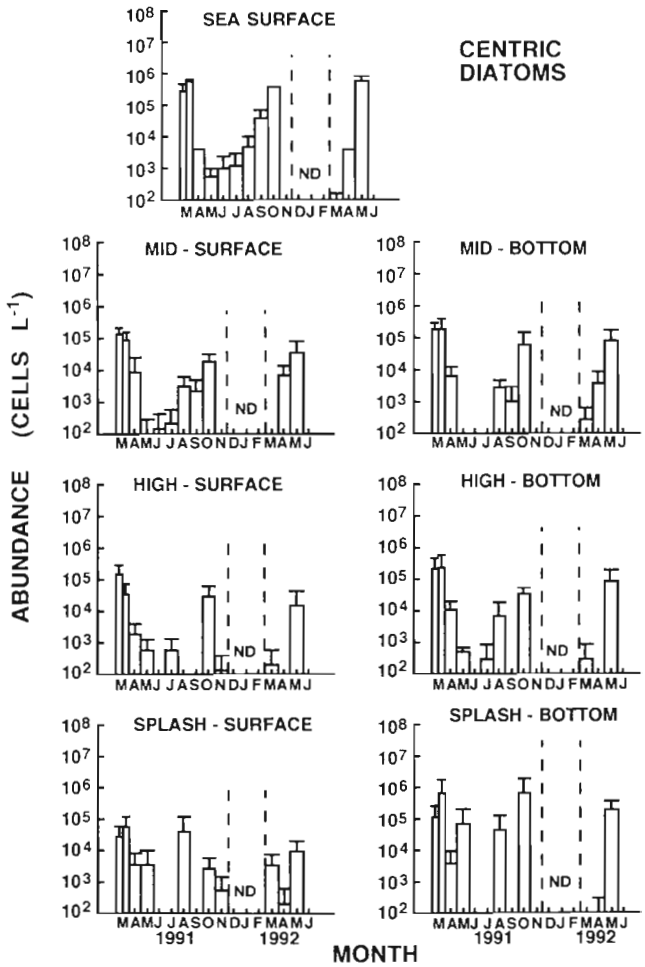

Fig. 3. Mean abundance of centric diatoms (±SD) at the sea surface (n = 2) and at the surface and bottom of tidepools (n = 4) in 3 intertidal zones (mid, high, splash) at Cranberry Cove, Nova Scotia, sampled at approximately monthly intervals between March and November 1991 and March and June 1992 (twice during the bloom in March 1991). ND: no data

spring (all pools: 17 March and April 1991, April and May 1992), although they were more abundant at the surface than at the bottom of all pools on 1 date (27 March 1991) (Fig. 4, Table 5). Cryptomonads were more abundant at the surface than at the bottom of all pools on 27 March 1991 (Fig. 5, Table 6). Chlorophytes were more abundant at the bottom than at the surface of all pools on 2 out of the 7 sampling dates (April and June 1992) (Fig. 6, Table 7).

The abundance of total phytoplankton and the individual taxonomic groups did not vary significantly among intertidal zones on any sampling date (Figs. 2 to 6, Table 3 to 7). However, the abundance of total phytoplankton and all taxonomic groups was highly variable among pools within zones throughout the study. The abundance of total phytoplankton varied significantly among pools within zones on all sampling dates (mid pools: all dates except May and July to September 1991, May 1992; high pools: all dates except August and November 1991; splash pools: all dates except May 1992) (Fig. 2, Table 3) The abundance of centric diatoms varied significantly among pools within zones on 6 out of 11 dates (mid pools: 17 and 27 March 1991, April 1992; high pools: 17 and 27 March and October 1991, May and June 1992; splash pools: 17 and 27 March, May and October 1991, March 1992) (Fig. 3, Table 4). The abundance of pennate diatoms varied significantly among pools on 7 out of 14 dates (mid pools: 17 and 27 March 1991, March to May 1992; high pools: 17 March, May and July 1991, April and May 1992; splash pools: 17 March to May 1991, March to May 1992) (Fig. 4, Table 5). The abundance of cryp-

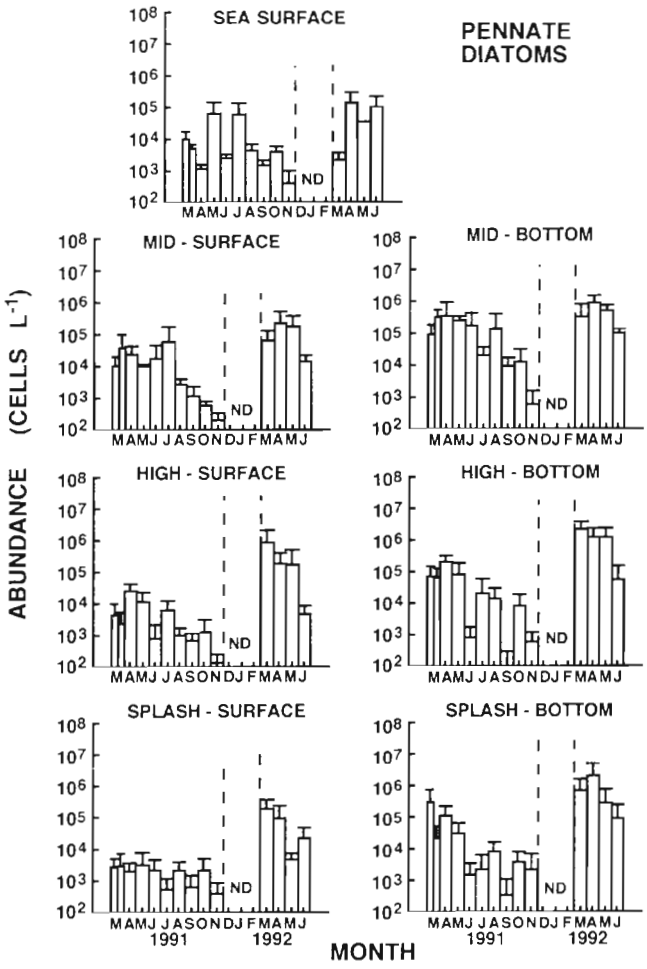

Fig. 4. Mean abundance of pennate diatoms (±SD) at the sea surface (n = 2) and at the surface and bottom of tidepools (n = 4) in 3 intertidal zones (mid, high, splash) at Cranberry Cove, Nova Scotia, sampled at approximately monthly intervals between March and November 1991 and March and June 1992 (twice during the bloom in March 1991). ND: no data

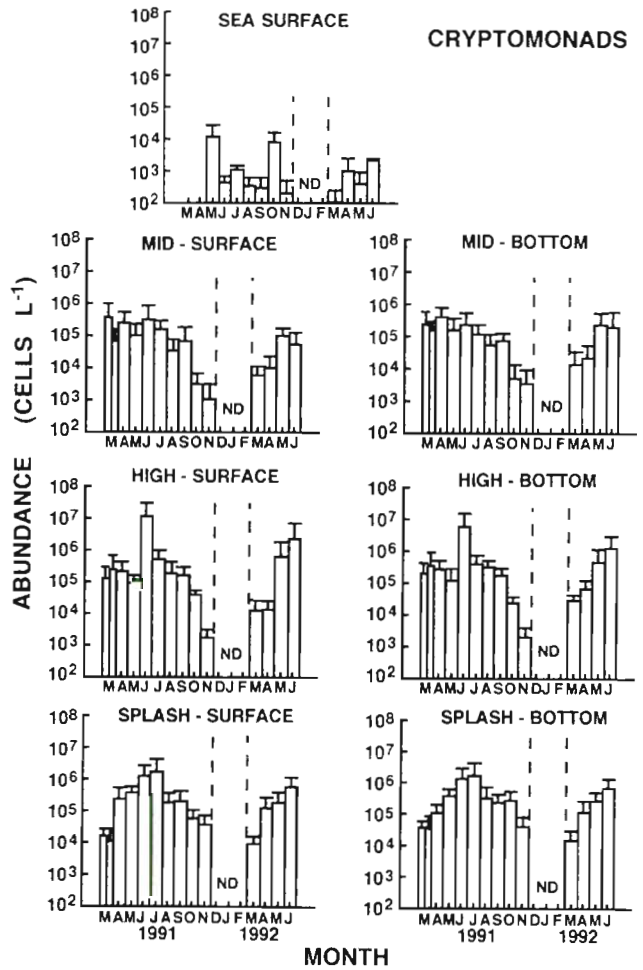

Fig. 5. Mean abundance of cryptomonads (±SD) at the sea surface (n = 2) and at the surface and bottom of tidepools (n = 4) in 3 intertidal zones (mid, high, splash) at Cranberry Cove, Nova Scotia, sampled at approximately monthly intervals between March and November 1991 and March and June 1992 (twice during the bloom in March 1991). ND: no data

tomonads varied significantly among pools on 13 out of 14 dates (mid pools: 17 March to June, August, October and November 1991, May and June 1992; high pools: 17 March to September and November 1991, April to June 1992; splash pools: on all dates except March 1992) (Fig 5, Table 6). The abundance of chlorophytes varied significantly among pools within zones on all dates (mid pools: August, October and November 1991, March to May 1992; high pools: August and October 1991, March to June 1992; splash pools: August, September and November 1991, March, April and June 1992) (Fig. 6, Table 7). Although not statistically analyzed, we observed pulses in the abundance of a euglenoid on 2 dates (June 1991 and June 1992; ca 1×10^6 and 3.5×10^5 cells l^{-1}, respectively) but only in 1 high pool (Table 1).

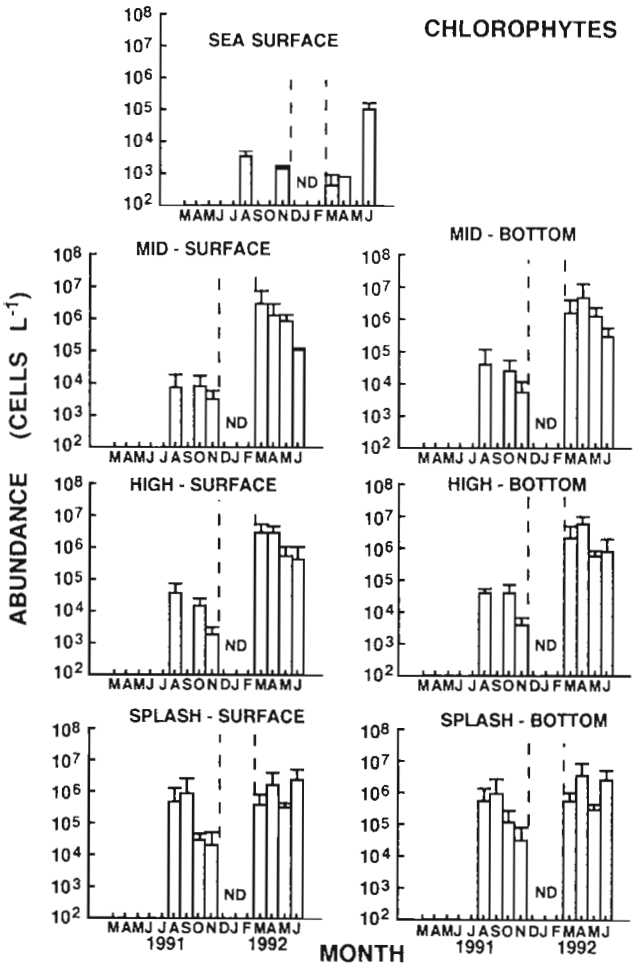

Fig. 6. Mean abundance of chlorophytes (±SD) at the sea surface (n = 2) and at the surface and bottom of tidepools (n = 4) in 3 intertidal zones (mid, high, splash) at Cranberry Cove, Nova Scotia, sampled at approximately monthly intervals between March and November 1991 and March and June 1992 (twice during the bloom in March 1991). ND: no data

Table 3. Analyses of variance of the abundance of total phytoplankton (cells l^{-1}) for 14 sampling periods between March 1991 and June 1992. Factors are Stratum (S), Intertidal Zone (Z) and Pool (nested within Zone) (P(Z)); degrees of freedom: $F_{P(Z)\times S} = 9, 24$; $F_{Z\times S} = 2, 9$ if $p_{P(Z)\times S} < 0.250$ and $F_{Z\times S} = 2, 33$ if $p_{P(Z)\times S} > 0.250$; $F_S = 1, 9$ if $p_{P(Z)\times S} < 0.250$ and $F_S = 1, 33$ if $p_{P(Z)\times S} > 0.250$; $F_{P(Z)} = 9, 24$; $F_Z = 2, 9$ if $p_{P(Z)} < 0.250$ and $F_Z = 2, 33$ if $p_{P(Z)} > 0.250$. *Bonferroni-adjusted probability was significant; nsBonferroni-adjusted probability was not significant; MS: denominator mean square used in *F*-ratios

Date	P(Z)×S			Z×S			S			P(Z)			Z		
	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p
17 Mar 1991	0.57	1.07	0.420^{ns}	0.61	3.45	>0.05^{ns}	0.61	17.97	<0.005*	0.60	14.84	<0.001*	8.85	0.97	0.639^{ns}
27 Mar 1991	2.2×10^4	4.92	<0.001^{ns}	1.1×10^5	0.20	>0.05^{ns}	1.1×10^5	11.68	0.008^{ns}	2.2×10^4	25.23	<0.001*	5.6×10^5	0.22	0.800^{ns}
13 Apr 1991	1.06	1.38	0.252^{ns}	1.17	0.98	>0.10^{ns}	1.17	11.28	<0.001*	1.06	10.06	<0.001*	10.67	0.32	0.732^{ns}
13 May 1991	3.3×10^{10}	1.80	0.120^{ns}	6.0×10^{10}	0.90	0.440^{ns}	6.0×10^{10}	5.43	0.045^{ns}	3.3×10^{10}	5.51	<0.001*	1.8×10^{11}	1.61	0.252^{ns}
7 Jun 1991	0.41	2.57	0.031^{ns}	1.04	0.90	0.441^{ns}	1.04	0.04	0.853^{ns}	0.41	61.40	<0.001*	24.95	0.42	0.667^{ns}
12 Jul 1991	8.8×10^{10}	0.40	0.922^{ns}	7.3×10^{10}	0.36	>0.10^{ns}	7.3×10^{10}	0.20	>0.10^{ns}	8.8×10^{10}	110	<0.001*	9.6×10^{12}	1.04	0.392^{ns}
22 Aug 1991	1.7×10^{11}	0.67	0.724^{ns}	1.5×10^{11}	0.01	>0.10^{ns}	1.5×10^{11}	3.20	>0.05^{ns}	1.7×10^{11}	6.12	<0.001*	1.0×10^{12}	1.73	0.992^{ns}
21 Sep 1991	4.43	0.35	0.947^{ns}	3.64	0.08	>0.10^{ns}	3.64	1.88	>0.05^{ns}	4.43	10.78	<0.001*	47.75	0.01	0.232^{ns}
9 Oct 1991	0.42	2.08	0.073^{ns}	0.87	2.48	0.139^{ns}	0.87	5.52	0.043^{ns}	0.42	7.33	<0.001*	3.06	2.86	0.109^{ns}
17 Nov 1991	0.35	0.61	0.773^{ns}	0.31	0.58	>0.10^{ns}	0.31	5.99	<0.025^{ns}	0.35	12.71	<0.001*	4.39	6.10	0.021^{ns}
15 Mar 1992	28.27	0.63	0.754^{ns}	25.43	4.03	<0.05^{ns}	25.43	1.67	>0.05^{ns}	28.27	29.15	<0.001*	824	0.85	0.460^{ns}
8 Apr 1992	0.46	1.00	0.465^{ns}	0.46	0.01	>0.10^{ns}	0.46	14.25	<0.001*	0.46	11.23	<0.001*	5.16	0.94	0.424^{ns}
6 May 1992	5.0×10^{11}	2.83	0.020^{ns}	1.4×10^{12}	0.15	0.865^{ns}	1.4×10^{12}	5.04	0.051^{ns}	5.0×10^{11}	2.68	0.026*	1.3×10^{12}	3.71	0.067^{ns}
26 Jun 1992	0.37	0.62	0.766^{ns}	0.33	0.89	>0.10^{ns}	0.33	10.55	<0.01^{ns}	0.37	17.71	<0.001*	6.51	1.94	0.199^{ns}

Table 4. Analyses of variance of the abundance of centric diatoms (cells l^{-1}) for 14 sampling periods between March 1991 and June 1992. Factors are Stratum (S), Intertidal Zone (Z) and Pool (nested within Zone) (P(Z)); degrees of freedom: $F_{P(Z)\times S} = 9, 24$; $F_{Z\times S} = 2, 9$ if $p_{P(Z)\times S} < 0.250$ and $F_{Z\times S} = 2, 33$ if $p_{P(Z)\times S} > 0.250$; $F_S = 1, 9$ if $p_{P(Z)\times S} < 0.250$ and $F_S = 1, 33$ if $p_{P(Z)\times S} > 0.250$; $F_{P(Z)} = 9, 24$; $F_Z = 2, 9$ if $p_{P(Z)} < 0.250$ and $F_Z = 2, 33$ if $p_{P(Z)} > 0.250$. •Bonferroni-adjusted probability was significant; ^{ns}Bonferroni-adjusted probability was not significant. –: centric diatoms were absent; MS: denominator mean square used in *F*-ratios

Date	P(Z) × S			Z × S			S			P(Z)			Z		
	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p
17 Mar 1991	2.9×10^9	2.74	0.023^{ns}	7.9×10^9	0.44	0.651^{ns}	7.9×10^9	5.48	0.044^{ns}	2.9×10^9	21.50	<0.001•	6.2×10^{10}	0.80	0.489^{ns}
27 Mar 1991	7.12	4.61	<0.001•	32.83	0.87	0.451^{ns}	32.83	8.09	0.019^{ns}	7.12	37.52	<0.001•	267	0.25	0.786^{ns}
13 Apr 1991	20.31	0.45	0.894^{ns}	17.26	0.36	$>0.10^{ns}$	17.26	0.45	0.562^{ns}	20.31	0.92	0.82^{ns}	19.86	0.41	$>0.10^{ns}$
13 May 1991	8.74	0.69	0.709^{ns}	8.00	1.83	$>0.05^{ns}$	8.00	2.95	$>0.05^{ns}$	8.74	3.79	0.004•	33.13	1.65	0.244^{ns}
7 Jun 1991		–			–			–			–			–	
12 Jul 1991		–			–			–			–			–	
22 Aug 1991	9.88	1.22	0.329^{ns}	10.47	0.61	$>0.10^{ns}$	10.47	4.79	$<0.025^{ns}$	9.88	2.82	0.021^{ns}	27.85	5.57	0.027^{ns}
21 Sep 1991	3.22	0.50	0.858^{ns}	2.78	5.06	$<0.025^{ns}$	2.78	5.06	$<0.025^{ns}$	3.22	3.04	0.014^{ns}	9.77	4.11	0.054^{ns}
9 Oct 1991	6.68	1.37	0.257^{ns}	7.35	1.52	$>0.05^{ns}$	7.35	9.16	<0.005•	6.68	7.36	<0.001•	49.16	0.91	0.436^{ns}
17 Nov 1991	3.91	0.82	0.607^{ns}	3.71	1.74	$>0.05^{ns}$	3.71	1.42	$>0.05^{ns}$	3.91	0.82	0.607^{ns}	3.71	0.39	$>0.10^{ns}$
15 Mar 1992	4.78	2.46	0.038^{ns}	11.76	2.97	0.102^{ns}	11.76	0.57	0.470^{ns}	4.78	2.13	0.067^{ns}	10.18	0.64	0.548^{ns}
8 Apr 1992	3.61	2.81	0.021^{ns}	10.11	1.45	0.284^{ns}	10.11	1.63	0.234^{ns}	3.61	6.34	<0.001•	22.85	5.71	0.025^{ns}
6 May 1992	9.87	1.10	0.399^{ns}	10.14	6.50	$<0.05^{ns}$	10.14	17.50	$<0.01^{ns}$	9.87	3.49	0.007•	34.48	0.66	0.539^{ns}
26 Jun 1992		–			–			–			–			–	

Table 5. Analyses of variance of the abundance of pennate diatoms (cells l^{-1}) for 14 sampling periods between March 1991 and June 1992. Factors are Stratum (S), Intertidal Zone (Z) and Pool (nested within Zone) (P(Z)); degrees of freedom: $F_{P(Z)\times S} = 9, 24$; $F_{Z\times S} = 2, 9$ if $p_{P(Z)\times S} < 0.250$ and $F_{Z\times S} = 2, 33$ if $p_{P(Z)\times S} > 0.250$; $F_S = 1, 9$ if $p_{P(Z)\times S} < 0.250$ and $F_S = 1, 33$ if $p_{P(Z)\times S} > 0.250$; $F_{P(Z)} = 9, 24$; $F_Z = 2, 9$ if $p_{P(Z)} < 0.250$ and $F_Z = 2, 33$ if $p_{P(Z)} > 0.250$. •Bonferroni-adjusted probability was significant; ^{ns}Bonferroni-adjusted probability was not significant; MS: denominator mean square used in *F*-ratios

Date	P(Z) × S			Z × S			S			P(Z)			Z		
	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p
17 Mar 1991	1.61	0.99	0.468^{ns}	1.61	1.16	$>0.10^{ns}$	1.61	55.44	<0.001•	1.61	7.18	<0.001•	11.58	0.32	0.736^{ns}
27 Mar 1991	14.86	1.45	0.223^{ns}	21.55	2.26	0.160^{ns}	21.55	26.99	0.001•	14.86	3.84	0.004•	57.16	5.56	0.027^{ns}
13 Apr 1991	2.34	4.39	<0.001•	1.63	0.47	0.638^{ns}	1.63	41.29	<0.001•	2.34	4.18	0.002•	9.76	2.10	0.178^{ns}
13 May 1991	1.56	4.03	0.003•	6.30	0.56	0.707^{ns}	6.30	11.64	0.008^{ns}	1.56	20.08	<0.001•	31.37	2.71	0.120^{ns}
7 Jun 1991	9.25	0.82	0.602^{ns}	8.80	0.84	$>0.10^{ns}$	8.80	1.52	$>0.10^{ns}$	9.25	2.26	0.054^{ns}	20.86	7.73	0.011^{ns}
12 Jul 1991	11.74	1.05	0.430^{ns}	11.90	0.10	$>0.10^{ns}$	11.90	0.83	$>0.10^{ns}$	11.74	1.80	0.120^{ns}	21.18	8.50	0.009^{ns}
22 Aug 1991	13.16	1.03	0.447^{ns}	13.26	0.05	$>0.10^{ns}$	13.26	0.97	$>0.10^{ns}$	13.16	1.66	0.155^{ns}	21.81	0.92	0.435^{ns}
21 Sep 1991	8.99	0.99	0.472^{ns}	8.97	3.96	$>0.05^{ns}$	8.97	0.07	$>0.10^{ns}$	8.99	1.01	0.461^{ns}	9.01	15.30	$<0.01^{ns}$
9 Oct 1991	11.56	0.30	0.968^{ns}	9.35	2.19	$>0.05^{ns}$	9.35	3.62	$>0.05^{ns}$	11.56	2.65	0.027^{ns}	30.67	0.87	0.452^{ns}
17 Nov 1991	7.71	1.72	0.138^{ns}	13.28	1.15	0.360^{ns}	13.28	0.18	0.685^{ns}	7.71	2.43	0.040^{ns}	18.70	0.19	0.830^{ns}
15 Mar 1992	8.97	0.11	0.999^{ns}	65.48	0.01	$>0.10^{ns}$	65.48	0.09	$>0.10^{ns}$	8.97	4.40	0.002•	39.49	1.53	0.267^{ns}
8 Apr 1992	0.90	1.98	0.088^{ns}	1.78	1.17	0.354^{ns}	1.78	24.94	<0.001•	0.90	5.85	<0.001•	5.28	0.18	0.838^{ns}
6 May 1992	18.67	3.44	0.007^{ns}	64.26	0.73	0.509^{ns}	64.26	19.53	<0.001•	18.67	8.54	<0.001•	160	3.22	0.088^{ns}
26 Jun 1992	2.02	0.70	0.700^{ns}	1.86	0.85	$>0.10^{ns}$	1.86	9.92	$<0.01^{ns}$	2.02	0.72	0.683^{ns}	1.87	3.20	$>0.05^{ns}$

Table 6. Analyses of variance of the abundance of cryptomonads (cells l^{-1}) for 14 sampling periods, between March 1991 and June 1992. Factors are Stratum (S), Intertidal zone (Z) and Pool (nested within Zone) (P(Z)); degrees of freedom: $F_{P(Z)\times S} = 9, 24$; $F_{Z\times S} = 2, 9$ if $p_{P(Z)\times S} < 0.250$ and $F_{Z\times S} = 2, 33$ if $p_{P(Z)\times S} > 0.250$; $F_S = 1, 9$ if $p_{P(Z)\times S} < 0.250$ and $F_S = 1, 33$ if $p_{P(Z)\times S} > 0.250$; $F_{P(Z)} = 9, 24$; $F_Z = 2, 9$ if $p_{P(Z)} < 0.250$ and $F_Z = 2, 33$ if $p_{P(Z)} > 0.250$. •Bonferroni-adjusted probability was significant; ^{ns}Bonferroni-adjusted probability was not significant. MS: denominator mean square used in *F*-ratios

Date	P(Z) × S			Z × S			S			P(Z)			Z		
	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p
17 Mar 1991	4.43	0.91	0.537^{ns}	4.32	4.76	$<0.05^{ns}$	4.32	3.26	$>0.05^{ns}$	4.43	92.49	<0.001•	410	0.21	0.818^{ns}
27 Mar 1991	5.80	1.55	0.188^{ns}	8.97	2.26	0.160^{ns}	8.97	18.87	0.003•	5.80	41.97	<0.001•	243	0.80	0.480^{ns}
13 Apr 1991	0.91	1.17	0.359^{ns}	0.95	2.51	$>0.10^{ns}$	0.95	5.02	$<0.05^{ns}$	0.91	14.28	<0.001•	12.98	0.86	0.834^{ns}
13 May 1991	8.53	1.44	0.228^{ns}	12.26	0.53	0.581^{ns}	12.26	0.39	0.551^{ns}	8.53	9.09	<0.001•	77.57	4.02	0.057^{ns}
7 Jun 1991	14.86	0.98	0.480^{ns}	14.78	1.22	$>0.10^{ns}$	14.78	0.66	$>0.10^{ns}$	14.86	35.04	<0.001•	521	0.88	0.448^{ns}
12Jul 1991	8.5×10^{10}	0.32	0.959^{ns}	6.9×10^{10}	377	<0.001•	6.9×10^{10}	1.78	$>0.10^{ns}$	8.5×10^{10}	114	<0.001•	9.6×10^{12}	1.08	0.378^{ns}
22 Aug 1991	3.84	2.16	0.064^{ns}	8.27	0.23	0.796^{ns}	8.27	5.51	0.044^{ns}	3.84	9.00	<0.001•	34.54	1.07	0.384^{ns}
21 Sep 1991	4.03	0.44	0.899^{ns}	3.42	0.14	$>0.10^{ns}$	3.42	2.65	$>0.10^{ns}$	4.03	11.12	<0.001•	44.87	0.03	0.968^{ns}
9 Oct 1991	2304	7.81	<0.001•	1.8×10^{4}	5.00	0.054^{ns}	1.8×10^{4}	1.91	0.200^{ns}	2304	31.78	<0.001•	7.3×10^{4}	3.95	0.059^{ns}
17 Nov 1991	1.64	0.80	0.621^{ns}	1.55	5.88	$<0.01^{ns}$	1.55	6.05	$<0.025^{ns}$	1.64	25.11	<0.001•	41.20	8.22	0.009^{ns}
15 Mar 1992	3.1×10^{8}	0.87	0.563^{ns}	3.0×10^{8}	0.50	$>0.10^{ns}$	3.0×10^{8}	3.90	$>0.05^{ns}$	3.1×10^{8}	1.31	0.282^{ns}	3.4×10^{8}	1.47	$>0.05^{ns}$
8 Apr 1992	9.4×10^{8}	3.07	0.013^{ns}	2.9×10^{9}	1.34	0.309^{ns}	2.9×10^{9}	1.47	0.257^{ns}	9.4×10^{8}	27.20	<0.001•	2.5×10^{10}	1.90	0.206^{ns}
6 May 1992	1.04	0.97	0.486^{ns}	1.04	1.45	$>0.10^{ns}$	1.04	4.64	$>0.05^{ns}$	1.04	9.76	<0.001•	10.18	0.04	0.960^{ns}
26 Jun 1992	2.7×10^{10}	2.82	0.020^{ns}	7.6×10^{10}	1.05	0.388^{ns}	7.6×10^{10}	0.32	0.588^{ns}	2.7×10^{10}	26.75	<0.001•	7.2×10^{11}	1.40	0.297^{ns}

Table 7. Analyses of variance of the abundance of chlorophytes (cells l^{-1}) for 14 sampling periods, between March 1991 and June 1992. Factors are Stratum (S), Intertidal Zone (Z) and Pool (nested within Zone) (P(Z)); degrees of freedom: $F_{P(Z)\times S} = 9, 24$; $F_{Z\times S} = 2, 9$ if $p_{P(Z)\times S} < 0.250$ and $F_{Z\times S} = 2, 33$ if $p_{P(Z)\times S} > 0.250$; $F_S = 1, 9$ if $p_{P(Z)\times S} < 0.250$ and $F_S = 1, 33$ if $p_{P(Z)\times S} > 0.250$; $F_{P(Z)} = 9, 24$; $F_Z = 2, 9$ if $p_{P(Z)} < 0.250$ and $F_Z = 2, 33$ if $p_{P(Z)} > 0.250$. •Bonferroni-adjusted probability was significant; ^{ns}Bonferroni-adjusted probability was not significant; MS: denominator mean square used in *F*-ratios. Chlorophytes were absent from 17 March to 22 August and on 21 September 1991

Date	P(Z) × S			Z × S			S			P(Z)			Z		
	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p
22 Aug 1991	0.41	2.66	0.027^{ns}	1.10	0.17	0.843^{ns}	1.10	5.15	0.049^{ns}	0.41	21.48	<0.001•	8.92	4.98	0.035^{ns}
21 Sep 1991		–			–			–			–			–	
9 Oct 1991	5.72	0.64	0.751^{ns}	3.35	0.33	$>0.10^{ns}$	3.35	5.35	$<0.05^{ns}$	5.72	4.98	<0.001•	18.52	1.51	0.273^{ns}
17 Nov 1991	2.07	0.73	0.681^{ns}	1.97	0.29	$>0.10^{ns}$	1.97	4.83	$<0.05^{ns}$	2.07	15.08	<0.001•	31.26	2.08	0.180^{ns}
15 Mar 1992	28.01	0.67	0.726^{ns}	25.50	4.36	$<0.05^{ns}$	25.50	1.96	$>0.05^{ns}$	28.01	30.30	<0.001•	849	0.83	0.467^{ns}
8 Apr 1992	0.41	0.49	0.868^{ns}	0.35	0.16	$>0.10^{ns}$	0.35	7.84	<0.01•	0.41	15.91	<0.001•	6.44	1.37	0.303^{ns}
6 May 1992	0.18	1.63	0.163^{ns}	0.30	0.29	0.755^{ns}	0.30	0.36	0.564^{ns}	0.18	5.99	<0.001•	1.10	4.37	0.047^{ns}
26 Jun 1992	0.24	1.34	0.269^{ns}	0.26	0.73	$>0.10^{ns}$	0.26	10.95	<0.01•	0.24	26.71	<0.001•	6.33	2.65	0.125^{ns}

The magnitude of the effect that each source of spatial variability had on phytoplankton abundance varied among groups but was relatively consistent among dates for most groups (Fig. 7). Variability in abundance of total phytoplankton, cryptomonads and chlorophytes was explained largely by variability among pools within zones, whereas variability in abundance of centric and pennate diatoms was explained to similar extents by variability among zones and between strata, as well as among pools within zones. Variability among pools within intertidal zones was 13–96% (on all dates) of total variability for total phytoplankton; for cryptomonads it was 6–96% (on all dates); for chlorophytes it was 33–86% (on all dates); for centric diatoms it was 11–69% (on 9 out of 11 dates); and for pennate diatoms it was 10–42% (on 12 of 14 dates) of total variability. Variability among zones was 1–49% (on 7 of 14 dates) of total variability for total phytoplankton; for cryptomonads it was 1–59% (on 7 of 14 dates); for chlorophytes it was 3–42% (on 6 of 7 dates); for centric diatoms it was 8–35% (on 4 of 11 dates); and for pennate diatoms it was 7–23% (on 9 of 14 dates) of total variability. Variability between strata was 1–20% (on 11 of 14 dates) of total variability for total phytoplankton; for cryptomonads it was 1–10% (on 10 of 14 dates); for chlorophytes it was 1–7% (on 5 of 7 dates); for centric diatoms it was 1–23% (on 9 of 11 dates); and for pennate diatoms it was 1–42% (on 10 of 14 dates) of total variability. The interaction term Zone × Stratum accounted for <23% and the interaction term Pool (Zone) × Stratum accounted for <28% of the variability in the abundance of all phytoplankton groups on all sampling dates. The amount of residual variability in abundance varied among phytoplankton groups and among sampling dates: for total phytoplankton, residual variability was 4–37% of total variability; for centric diatoms it was 8–40%, except in April and November 1991 when it was 100% and 89%, respectively; for pennate diatoms it was 9–67%, except in August 1991, when it was 85%; for cryptomonads it was 3–29%, except in March 1992, when it was 72%; and for chlorophytes it was 8–43% of total variability.

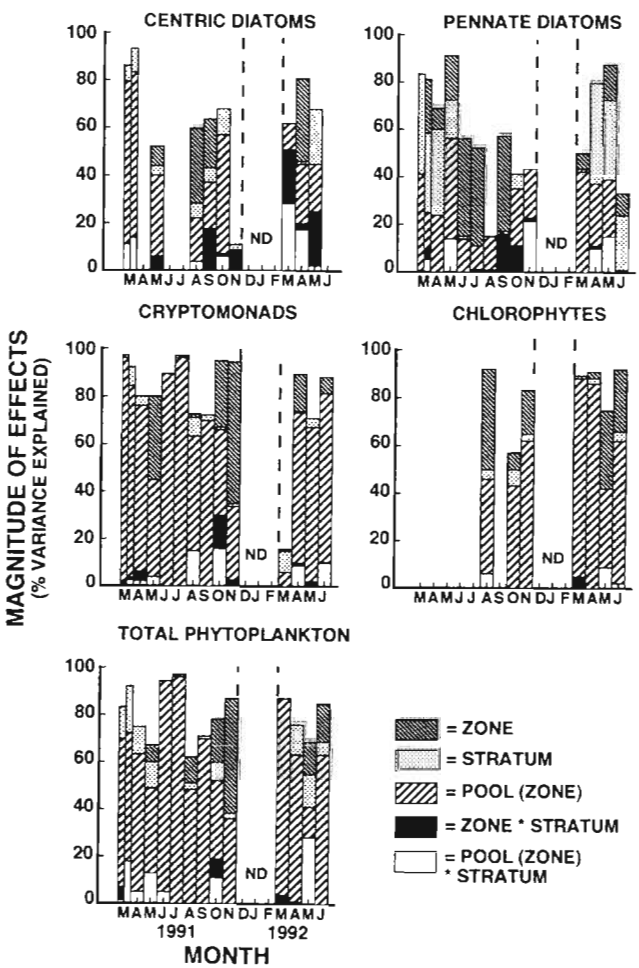

Fig. 7. Magnitude of effects of each factor [Zone, Stratum, Pool(Zone)], as well as of the interaction terms [Zone × Stratum, Pool(Zone) × Stratum], in the analyses of variance of the abundance of total phytoplankton and of each phytoplankton group for each sampling date. ND: no data

Spatial patterns of grazer abundance

The major groups of planktonic micrograzers were calanoid copepodites and nauplii (the genera *Acartia*, *Calanus*, *Paracalanus*, *Pseudocalanus* and *Temora* at the sea surface and in mid pools, and *Eurytemora affinis* in splash pools), marine cladocerans (*Podon polyphemoides* and *Evadne nordmanii*) and marine rotifers (the genera *Brachionus* and *Synchaeta*) (for a more detailed description see Metaxas & Scheibling 1994a). The abundance of planktonic micrograzers did not vary significantly among zones on any sampling date but varied significantly among pools within zones on 4 of 14 sampling dates (June to August 1991, June 1992) (Fig. 8, Table 8).

The major groups of benthic micrograzers included harpacticoid copepodites and nauplii (families Harpacticidae, Tisbidae, Thalestridae and Diosaccidae), foraminiferans and nematodes (see Metaxas & Scheibling 1994a). The abundance of benthic micrograzers did not vary significantly among zones on any sampling date but varied significantly among pools within zones in June 1991 (Fig. 8, Table 8).

Mussels *Mytilus edulis* and/or *M. trossulus* were abundant in mid and high pools throughout the sampling season, but small mussels were never found in

some high and splash pools (Fig. 9, see also Metaxas et al. 1994). The abundance of small mussels was greater in mid than high and splash pools on 1 sampling date (September 1991), but varied significantly (SNK test) among pools within zones on 5 of 14 dates (June to August 1991, May and June 1992) (Table 9). The abundance of medium-sized mussels was greater in mid than in high and/or splash pools on 1 sampling date (May 1992), and varied significantly among pools within zones on all sampling dates, except August 1991 (Table 9). The abundance of large mussels did not vary significantly among intertidal zones on any sampling date, but varied significantly among pools within zones on all sampling dates except May 1992 (Table 9).

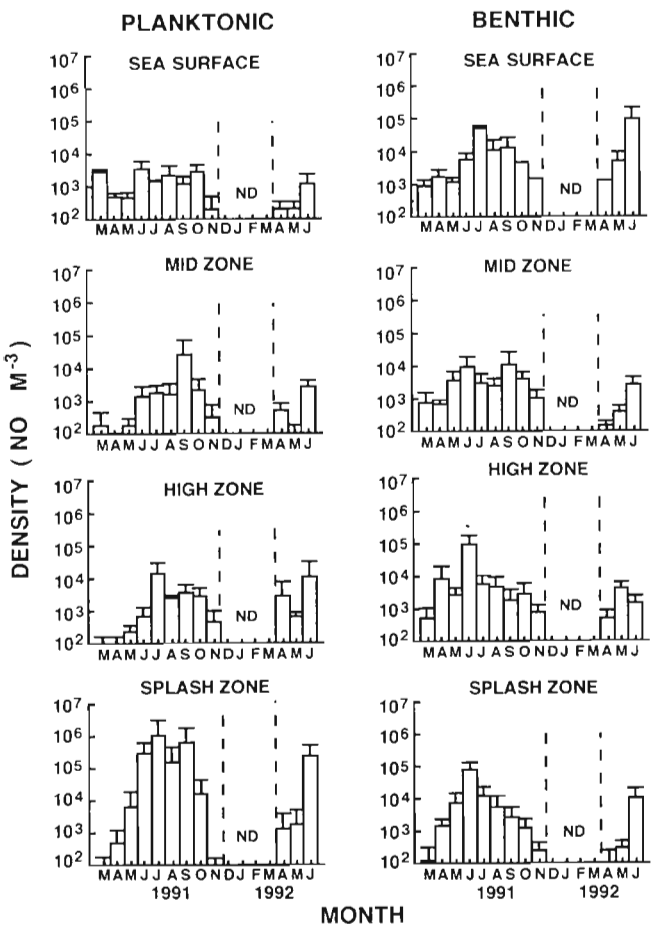

Fig. 8. Mean density of planktonic and benthic micrograzers (±SD) at the sea surface (n = 2) and at the surface and bottom of tidepools (n = 4) in 3 intertidal zones (mid, high, splash) at Cranberry Cove, Nova Scotia, sampled at approximately monthly intervals between March and November 1991 and April and June 1992. ND: no data

Table 8. Analyses of variance of the abundance of planktonic and benthic micrograzers (ind. m^{-3}) for 12 sampling periods between March 1991 and June 1992. Factors are Intertidal Zone (Z) and Pool (nested within Zone) (P(Z)); degrees of freedom: $F_{(\%Z)} = 9, 12$; $F_Z = 2, 9$ if $p_{P(Z)} < 0.250$ and $F_Z = 2, 21$ if $p_{P(Z)} > 0.250$. •Bonferroni-adjusted probability was significant; ^{ns}Bonferroni-adjusted probability was not significant; MS: denominator mean square used in F-ratios

Date	Planktonic grazers						Benthic grazers					
	MS	P(Z) F	p	MS	Z F	p	MS	P(Z) F	p	MS	Z F	p
17 Mar 1991	6.18	1.78	0.173^{ns}	11.02	0.29	0.754^{ns}	5.9×10^5	1.01	0.480^{ns}	5.9×10^5	1.46	$>0.10^{ns}$
13 Apr 1991	6.28	1.65	0.208^{ns}	10.33	1.69	0.239^{ns}	4.35	1.83	0.164^{ns}	7.95	0.32	0.737^{ns}
13 May 1991	4.23	4.29	0.011^{ns}	18.14	0.42	0.667^{ns}	2.7×10^7	1.77	0.176^{ns}	4.8×10^7	0.94	0.425^{ns}
7 Jun 1991	4.74	5.07	$0.006^{\bullet}$	24.05	1.94	0.200^{ns}	0.41	7.04	$<0.001^{\bullet}$	2.88	4.26	0.050^{ns}
12 Jul 1991	1.80	18.75	$<0.001^{\bullet}$	33.78	0.53	0.606^{ns}	2.7×10^7	3.93	0.015^{ns}	1.1×10^8	1.63	0.249^{ns}
22 Aug 1991	0.63	7.85	$<0.001^{\bullet}$	4.92	4.01	0.057^{ns}	0.93	2.39	0.080^{ns}	2.23	0.09	0.915^{ns}
21 Sep 1991	2.44	4.72	0.008^{ns}	11.52	4.63	0.04^{ns}	6.25	1.13	0.411^{ns}	6.60	1.71	$>0.10^{ns}$
9 Oct 1991	5.61	1.75	0.181^{ns}	9.80	0.09	0.913^{ns}	5.5×10^6	1.97	0.136^{ns}	1.1×10^7	1.16	0.357^{ns}
17 Nov 1991	9.47	1.18	0.386^{ns}	10.19	0.53	$>0.05^{ns}$	4.3×10^5	1.41	0.285^{ns}	5.0×10^5	1.44	$>0.05^{ns}$
8 Apr 1992	7.64	2.41	0.079^{ns}	18.40	0.65	0.546^{ns}	7.00	1.04	0.467^{ns}	7.10	2.84	$>0.05^{ns}$
6 May 1992	9.27	1.16	0.394^{ns}	9.90	2.60	$>0.05^{ns}$	9.0×10^6	0.38	0.926^{ns}	6.7×10^6	5.67	$<0.05^{ns}$
26 Jun 1992	2.44	9.18	$<0.001^{\bullet}$	22.43	1.63	0.250^{ns}	4.22	1.08	0.440^{ns}	4.36	0.12	$>0.10^{ns}$

Spatial patterns of nutrient concentration

The concentrations of macronutrients varied little among zones but was variable throughout the sampling season among pools within zones (Figs. 10 & 11). The concentration of nitrate+nitrite, ammonium and silicate did not vary significantly among zones on any sampling date but varied significantly among pools within zones on 6 of 14, 4 of 9 and 3 of 14 dates, respectively (nitrate+nitrite: 17 and 27 March, April and August 1991, May and June 1992; ammonium: May, July and September 1991, April 1992; phosphate: 27 March, April and September 1991) (Table 10). The concentration of silicate was significantly larger in mid than in high and/or splash pools in November 1991, and varied significantly among pools on 10 of 14 dates (March to May, July to September 1991, March to June 1992).

Relationships of phytoplankton abundance with biotic and abiotic factors

The abundance of phytoplankton varied significantly with most of the biotic and some of the abiotic

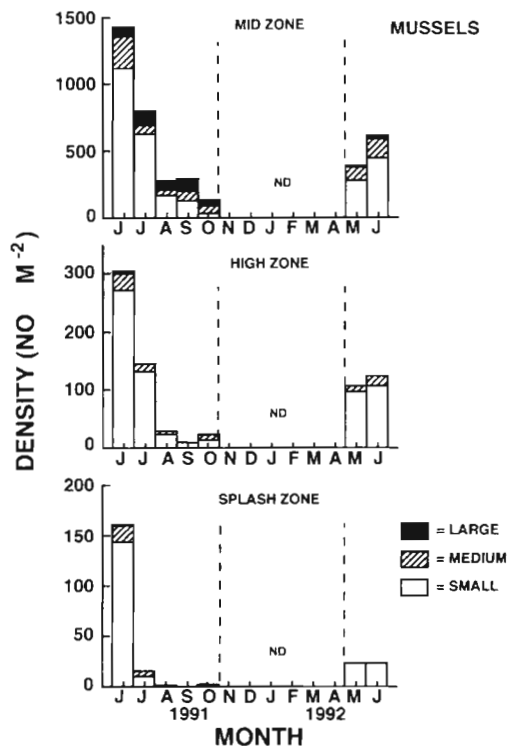

Fig. 9. Mean density of small, medium and large mussels in tidepools in 3 intertidal zones (mid, high, splash) at Cranberry Cove, Nova Scotia, sampled at approximately monthly intervals between June and October 1991 and in May and June 1992. ND: no data

Table 9. Analyses of variance of the abundance of 3 size classes of mussels (ind. m^{-2}) for 7 sampling periods between June 1991 and June 1992. Factors are Intertidal Zone (Z) and Pool (nested within Zone) (P(Z)); degrees of freedom: $F_{P(Z)} = 9, 48$; $F_Z = 2, 9$ if $p_{P(Z)} < 0.250$ and $F_Z = 2, 57$ if $p_{P(Z)} > 0.250$. *Bonferroni-adjusted probability was significant; nsBonferroni-adjusted probability was not significant; MS: denominator mean square used in *F*-ratios

Date	Small mussels					Medium-sized mussels					Large mussels				
	P(Z)			Z		P(Z)			Z		P(Z)			Z	
	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p
7 Jun 1991	5.34	2.97	0.007*	15.84	3.20	0.089ns	2.43	7.90	<0.001*	19.18	2.24	0.162ns	0.65	6.94	<0.001*	4.81	2.15	0.172ns
12 Jul 1991	1.15	9.17	<0.001*	10.52	6.48	0.018ns	0.99	5.03	<0.001*	4.95	2.12	0.176ns	0.66	5.56	<0.001*	3.66	3.30	0.084ns
22 Aug 1991	2.51	4.76	<0.001*	11.96	3.62	0.070ns	865	1.83	0.087ns	1580	5.34	0.029ns	0.31	11.16	<0.001*	3.46	4.81	0.038ns
21 Sep 1991	2.68	1.94	0.069ns	5.20	9.59	0.006*	1.21	4.92	<0.001*	5.93	5.82	0.024ns	0.76	8.10	<0.001*	6.12	1.96	0.196ns
27 Oct 1991	2.48	1.44	0.198ns	3.58	3.87	0.061ns	1.43	6.87	<0.001*	9.85	0.80	0.479ns	0.22	35.25	<0.001*	7.90	0.86	0.458ns
6 May 1992	3.66	4.97	<0.001*	18.17	2.28	0.159ns	1.73	2.70	0.013*	4.67	14.90	<0.001*	0.43	0.87	0.559ns	0.43	6.16	<0.05ns
26 Jun 1992	3.20	5.89	<0.001*	18.86	2.36	0.150ns	1.28	9.65	<0.001*	12.33	4.35	0.048ns	1.10	3.48	0.002*	3.80	4.87	0.037ns

characteristics of individual tidepools. Although the significant independent factors differed among phytoplankton groups, we obtained similar relationships between the abundances at the surface and at the bottom of the pools for each group, but not for total phytoplankton (Table 11). Among the biotic factors, the abundance of total phytoplankton at the bottom, and of pennate diatoms, cryptomonads and chlorophytes at both strata varied significantly with the density of small mussels. Only the abundance of chlorophytes at both strata varied significantly with the density of benthic micrograzers. No phytoplankton group showed a significant relationship with the density of planktonic grazers, medium-sized or large mussels.

In terms of nutrients, the abundance of total phytoplankton at the surface of the pools varied significantly with the concentration of nitrate+nitrite, and the abundance of centric diatoms at the surface and chlorophytes at both strata varied significantly with the concentration of ammonium. Only the abundance of chlorophytes at the bottom of the pools varied significantly with the concentration of phosphate. The abundance of total phytoplankton, cryptomonads and chlorophytes at both strata, and of pennate diatoms at the bottom of the pools varied significantly with the concentration of silicate.

Fewer significant relationships were detected between abiotic factors and the abundance of phytoplankton over the entire sampling period. The abundance of total phytoplankton and chlorophytes at the bottom of the pools and of cryptomonads at both strata varied significantly with temperature. The abundance

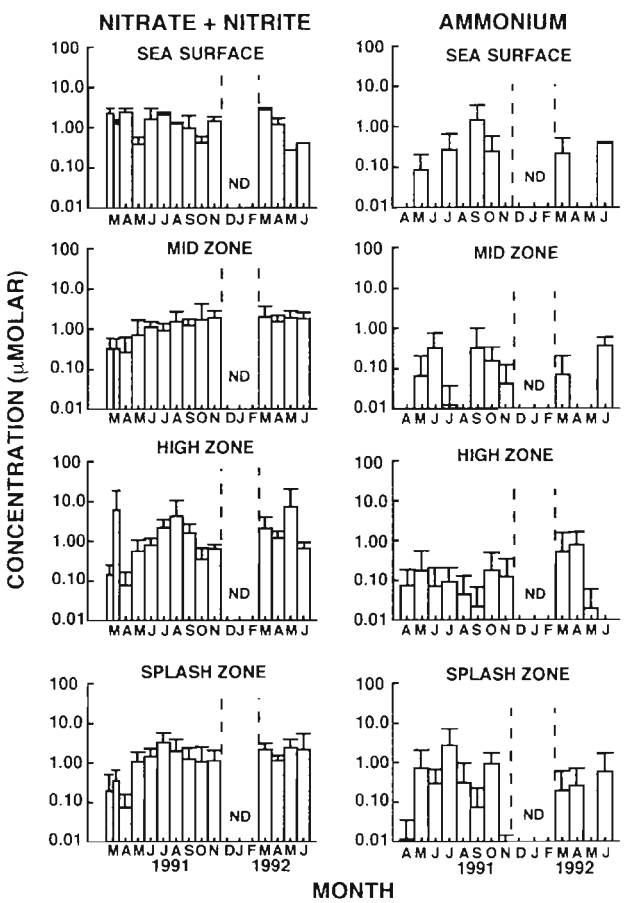

Fig. 10. Mean concentration of nitrate+nitrite and ammonium (±SD) at the sea surface (n = 2) and at the surface and bottom of tidepools (n = 4) in 3 intertidal zones (mid, high, splash) at Cranberry Cove, Nova Scotia, sampled at approximately monthly intervals between March and November 1991 and March and June 1992 (twice during the bloom in March 1991). ND: no data

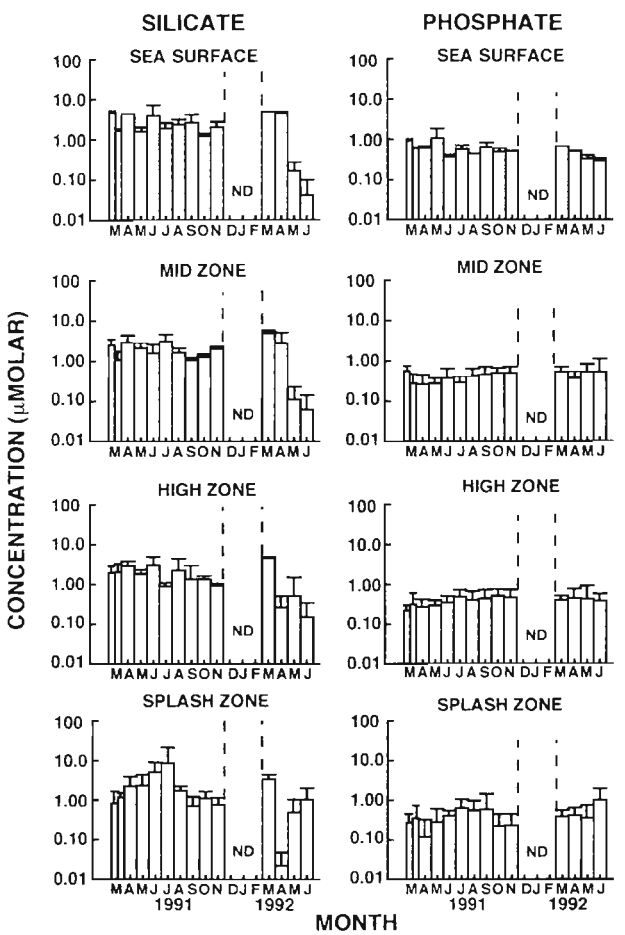

Fig. 11 Mean concentration of silicate and phosphate (±SD) at the sea surface (n = 2) and at the surface and bottom of tidepools (n = 4) in 3 intertidal zones (mid, high, splash) at Cranberry Cove, Nova Scotia, sampled at approximately monthly intervals between March and November 1991 and March and June 1992 (twice during the bloom in March 1991). ND: no data

Table 10. Analyses of variance of nutrient concentrations (µM) for 14 sampling periods between March 1991 and June 1992. Factors are Intertidal Zone (Z) and Pool (nested within Zone) (P(Z)); degrees of freedom: $F_{P(Z)}$ = 9, 12; F_Z = 2, 9 if $p_{P(Z)} < 0.250$ and F_Z = 2, 21 if $p_{P(Z)} > 0.250$. •Bonferroni-adjusted probability was significant; ^{ns}Bonferroni-adjusted probability was not significant; –: not measured; MS: denominator mean square used in *F*-ratios

Date	NO_3+NO_2						NH_4					
		P(Z)			Z			P(Z)			Z	
	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p
17 Mar 1991	0.01	14.05	<0.001•	0.13	0.53	0.608^{ns}		–			–	
27 Mar 1991	0.06	62.40	<0.001•	3.60	0.41	0.677^{ns}		–			–	
13 Apr 1991	0.004	26.08	<0.001•	0.11	0.83	0.466^{ns}		–			–	
13 May 1991	1.45	0.80	0.627^{ns}	1.33	0.37	>0.10^{ns}	0.008	148	<0.001•	1.16	0.81	0.474^{ns}
7 Jun 1991	1.90	0.36	0.935^{ns}	7.21	0.13	>0.10^{ns}	0.003	0.83	0.601^{ns}	0.003	0.67	>0.10^{ns}
12 Jul 1991	10.19	0.53	0.830^{ns}	8.11	1.38	0.300^{ns}	0.149	86.28	<0.001•	12.86	1.32	0.315^{ns}
22 Aug 1991	5.20	5.37	0.004•	27.90	0.60	0.569^{ns}	–	–				
21 Sep 1991	1.79	1.02	0.473^{ns}	1.81	0.18	>0.10^{ns}	0.027	11.19	<0.001•	0.30	0.71	0.519^{ns}
9 Oct 1991	6.40	0.82	0.612^{ns}	5.90	0.61	>0.10^{ns}	0.136	3.31	0.033^{ns}	0.45	2.63	0.126^{ns}
17 Nov 1991	2.28	0.54	0.818^{ns}	1.83	1.65	>0.10^{ns}	0.038	0.95	0.519^{ns}	0.037	0.76	>0.10^{ns}
15 Mar 1992	1.84	2.43	0.077^{ns}	4.46	0.04	0.965^{ns}	0.082	2.54	0.067^{ns}	0.21	0.36	0.714^{ns}
8 Apr 1992	0.68	0.89	0.559^{ns}	0.60	0.49	>0.10^{ns}	0.112	5.92	0.003•	0.67	1.87	0.209^{ns}
6 May 1992	4.48	21.67	<0.001•	97.18	0.61	0.566^{ns}		–			–	
26 Jun 1992	0.80	9.41	<0.001•	7.50	0.65	0.547^{ns}	0.115	1.50	0.252^{ns}	0.17	1.35	>0.10^{ns}

	PO_4						SiO_4					
		P(Z)			Z			P(Z)			Z	
	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p	MS	*F*	p
17 Mar 1991	0.028	1.74	0.183^{ns}	0.048	4.76	0.039^{ns}	0.20	7.33	<0.001•	1.44	4.37	0.047^{ns}
27 Mar 1991	0.006	12.28	<0.001•	0.076	0.01	0.993^{ns}	0.08	13.71	<0.001•	1.14	1.58	0.258^{ns}
13 Apr 1991	0.006	11.47	<0.001•	0.065	0.94	0.425^{ns}	0.02	13.33	<0.001•	0.30	0.42	0.668^{ns}
13 May 1991	0.009	4.68	0.008^{ns}	0.044	0.06	0.938^{ns}	1.44	2.12	0.112^{ns}	3.05	0.24	0.790^{ns}
7 Jun 1991	0.044	1.85	0.158^{ns}	0.082	0.11	0.898^{ns}	3.48	3.73	0.019^{ns}	12.98	1.84	0.214^{ns}
12 Jul 1991	0.058	2.99	0.040^{ns}	0.173	1.38	0.300^{ns}	3.96	27.52	<0.001•	109	1.08	0.382^{ns}
22 Aug 1991	0.096	1.89	0.149^{ns}	0.182	0.27	0.772^{ns}	0.04	71.74	<0.001•	3.11	0.26	0.778^{ns}
21 Sep 1991	0.066	8.64	<0.001•	0.567	0.06	0.939^{ns}	0.02	13.82	<0.001•	0.32	0.27	0.773^{ns}
9 Oct 1991	0.068	1.47	0.262^{ns}	0.080	2.58	>0.05^{ns}	0.08	3.59	0.021^{ns}	0.28	0.46	0.648^{ns}
17 Nov 1991	0.064	1.64	0.210^{ns}	0.104	1.47	0.281^{ns}	0.05	3.81	0.017^{ns}	0.18	21.99	<0.001•
15 Mar 1992	0.015	2.82	0.048^{ns}	0.042	1.18	0.350^{ns}	0.25	4.74	0.007•	1.19	3.02	0.099^{ns}
8 Apr 1992	0.072	1.68	0.197^{ns}	0.645	0.07	0.931^{ns}	0.01	25.01	<0.001•	0.33	8.79	0.008^{ns}
6 May 1992	0.087	3.50	0.023^{ns}	0.306	0.22	0.807^{ns}	0.01	25.38	<0.001•	0.29	0.46	0.647^{ns}
26 Jun 1992	0.052	4.92	0.014^{ns}	0.210	0.85	0.458^{ns}	0.003	63.18	<0.001•	0.14	3.29	0.084^{ns}

Table 11. Significant forward stepwise multiple regressions for abundance of 5 phytoplankton groups at the surface and near the bottom of tidepools against the biotic and abiotic characteristics of the pools for the entire sampling period between March 1991 and June 1992. Independent variables are: (PL) density of planktonic grazers; (BE) density of benthic grazers; (M<1) density of small mussels; (M1–2) density of medium mussels; (M>2) density of large mussels; (NO) nitrate+nitrite concentration; (NH) ammonium concentration; (PO) phosphate concentration; (Si) silicate concentration; (T) temperature; (S) salinity; (pH) pH; (AL) macroalgal cover; (H) height above chart datum; (V) volume; (F) flushing rate. Within each multiple regression, constants and independent variables with significant partial *F*-values are shown in bold

Dependent variable	N	Model	R^2	*F*	p
Total phytoplankton (surface)	168	**11.52** + 0.61**(NO)** – 1.00**(Si)** + 0.01(T) + 0.03(S)	0.054	3.38	<0.05
Total phytoplankton (bottom)	106	**6.60** + 0.31**(M<1)** + 0.54(NO) – 1.43**(Si)** + 0.07**(T)** – 0.08**(S)** + 0.82**(pH)** – 0.01(F)	0.247	5.92	<0.001
Centric diatoms (surface)	144	**3.60** – 3.84**(NH)**	0.028	5.06	<0.05
Pennate diatoms (surface)	132	**6.05** – 0.12(PL) + 0.26**(M<1)** + 0.82(NO) – 0.68(Si) + 0.03**(AL)**	0.171	6.39	<0.001
Pennate diatoms (bottom)	132	**4.67** – 0.03(PL) + 0.46**(M<1)** – 1.24**(Si)** + 0.06(S) + 0.04**(AL)**	0.217	8.27	<0.001
Cryptomonads (surface)	168	**9.79** + 0.32**(M<1)** + 0.30(NO) – 0.87**(Si)** + 0.13**(T)** – 0.04**(F)**	0.259	12.69	<0.001
Cryptomonads (bottom)	168	**10.81** + 0.26**(M<1)** + 0.82(NO) – 1.81(PO) – 0.92**(Si)** + 0.10**(T)** – 0.04**(F)**	0.220	8.83	<0.001
Chlorophytes (surface)	132	**16.00** – 1.06**(BE)** – 0.56**(M<1)** + 5.36**(NH)** + 3.89(PO) – 2.10**(Si)** – 0.06(S) + 0.04**(AL)**	0.393	4.29	<0.001
Chlorophytes (bottom)	132	**16.39** + 0.08(PL) – 0.61**(BE)** – 0.60**(M<1)** + 4.58**(NH)** + 4.80**(PO)** – 2.53**(Si)** – 0.07(S) – 0.23**(T)** + 0.04**(AL)**	0.450	12.93	<0.001

of total phytoplankton at the bottom of the pools varied significantly with salinity. The abundance of pennate diatoms and chlorophytes at both strata varied significantly with percentage cover of macroalgae, and the abundance of cryptomonads at both strata varied significantly with flushing rate.

DISCUSSION

Phytoplankton succession at the sea surface followed a pattern previously described for Nova Scotia (Côté & Platt 1983, Perry et al. 1989) and north temperate waters elsewhere (Harrison et al. 1983, Reid et al. 1990, Haigh et al. 1992, Weeks et al. 1993). The spring blooms in 1991 and 1992 were dominated by the centric diatoms *Chaetoceros* spp. and *Skeletonema costatum*, and the autumn bloom in 1991 was dominated by the centric diatom *Rhizosolenia*. After the spring blooms, the abundance of pennate diatoms, flagellates and nanoflagellates increased in May/June in both years.

In tidepools, cryptomonads and chlorophytes were the numerically dominant groups of phytoplankton throughout the sampling period. Centric diatoms were introduced into pools during the blooms and their abundance subsequently decreased. Since tidepools and splash pools are less turbulent environments than the surrounding seawater, the difference in dominance patterns between the sea surface and the tidepools is consistent with Margalef's proposal (1978) that under conditions of high turbulence centric and pennate diatoms should dominate, whereas under low turbulence flagellates should dominate (see also Kiørboe 1993 for review). Cryptomonads are characterized as opportunistic with wide temperature and salinity tolerances (Klaveness 1988), which also may explain their numerical dominance in tidepools.

We examined 3 sources of spatial variability of the phytoplankton assemblages of tidepools: (1) between strata (the surface and bottom of pools), (2) among intertidal zones, and (3) among pools within zones. The magnitude of variability between strata differed among phytoplankton groups and reflected the characteristics of individual life forms. The largest number of significant differences between strata were detected for pennate diatoms, a group which is mostly benthic. On most dates, the factor stratum accounted for 30 to 40% of the variance in the abundance of pennate diatoms. In all cases except for on 27 March 1991, the abundance of pennate diatoms was greater at the bottom than at the surface of the pools. We detected fewer differences in abundance between strata for centric diatoms, cryptomonads and chlorophytes than for pennate diatoms, probably because centric diatoms are more buoyant and cryptomonads and chlorophytes are more motile than pennate diatoms. In most cases, these 3 taxonomic groups were more abundant at the bottom of the pools, probably due to sinking.

We found no indication of intertidal zonation of phytoplankton assemblages in tidepools. Dethier (1982) recorded zonation of diatoms (mainly pennates) along the intertidal gradient, which appeared to reverse during the year. She observed diatom blooms in lower pools in summer and in higher pools in winter, which

she attributed to reduced grazer densities in those zones during those periods (Dethier 1982, 1984). Metaxas & Lewis (1992) observed a decline in the abundance of centric diatoms and an increase in the abundance of pennates in pools of increasing intertidal height. The difference between these studies and ours could be the result of wave exposure: the site described in Metaxas & Lewis (1992) was very protected, whereas our site was very exposed. Dethier (1984) also observed less zonation of microalgae in the more exposed sites of her study.

Significant differences among zones in abiotic and biotic factors that may affect phytoplankton abundance were observed on some sampling dates. The lack of differences among intertidal zones in the abundance of phytoplankton suggest that these assemblages do not show vertical zonation. Since there were few differences among zones in the abiotic and biotic factors that potentially regulate these assemblages, we suggest that variability in these factors does not adequately explain variability in abundance of phytoplankton on the vertical scale.

Spatial variability in the abundance of phytoplankton among pools within intertidal zones was detected consistently for all phytoplankton groups on most sampling dates. For total phytoplankton, and for cryptomonads and chlorophytes, up to 96% of the variance in abundance was explained by variability along the horizontal scale. For centric and pennate diatoms, variability within zones was at least as large as variability among intertidal zones, and on some dates it was larger. The biotic factors that could affect phytoplankton abundance also varied significantly within zones on most sampling dates. We have documented previously that the hyperbenthic and macrobenthic assemblages of these pools exhibit large variability within zones, suggesting that individual pools are unique in the combination of their biotic and abiotic characteristics (Metaxas & Scheibling 1994a, Metaxas et al. 1994). Therefore, the factors regulating phytoplankton assemblages in tidepools probably operate more at the scale of the individual pool rather than the intertidal zone

Multiple regressions showed significant relationships in all but 1 group of phytoplankton (centric diatoms), both at the surface and the bottom of the pools, with some biotic and abiotic characteristics of the pools. The lack of relationships with the abundance of centric diatoms is probably because diatoms are more transient residents of the pools (they are mainly introduced during blooms in the surrounding seawater) than are the other groups. Nutrients showed significant relationships with the abundance of most phytoplankton groups. The relationship between the abundance of phytoplankton and the concentration of silicate was negative for all phytoplankton groups. For pennate diatoms, the relationship may be attributed to nutrient uptake. Since cryptomonads and chlorophytes do not require silicate for growth, no direct mechanism for the relationship can be suggested. The relationships between the abundance of chlorophytes and the concentration of phosphate and ammonium were positive.

Certain grazers also showed significant relationships with the abundance of phytoplankton. The abundance of all phytoplankton groups (except centric diatoms) varied significantly with the density of small mussels, but only chlorophytes showed a significant relationship with benthic micrograzers, and there were no relationships with medium-sized, large mussels or planktonic micrograzers. The relationships between the abundance of pennate diatoms and cryptomonads and the density of small mussels were positive, suggesting that mussels in that size class are more abundant in pools where a potential food source is more abundant or that both phytoplankton and small mussels are responding positively to some other factor. However, the relationships between the abundance of chlorophytes and the density of small mussels and benthic micrograzers were negative, suggesting that these grazers may be significantly removing this group of phytoplankton by feeding. The lack of significant relationships between the abundance of phytoplankton and the density of planktonic grazers, medium-sized and large mussels suggest that these factors are not important and/or that their importance may vary during the year The role of planktonic grazers, such as calanoid copepods, cladocerans and rotifers, in determining the phytoplankton community structure of oceanic systems has not been demonstrated consistently (e.g Deason 1980, Estep et al. 1990, Hansen & van Boekel 1991, Morales et al. 1991, but see also Conover & Mayzaud 1984). In contrast, the abundance of phytoplankton in restricted water masses can be reduced substantially by mussel beds during 1 tidal cycle (e.g. Wright et al. 1982, Fréchette et al. 1989, Asmus & Asmus 1991).

Fewer significant relationships were detected between the abiotic characteristics of the pools and the abundance of phytoplankton. Temperature and flushing rate were important factors for cryptomonads and chlorophytes, and percentage cover of macroalgae for pennate diatoms and chlorophytes. A positive relationship between temperature and the abundance of cryptomonads reflects the increase in abundance of this group in summer, whereas a negative relationship between temperature and the abundance of chlorophytes reflects the increase of this group in fall. A negative relationship between flushing rate and the abundance of cryptomonads reinforces the suggestion that

they are the dominant phytoplankton group in tidepools because pools are low-turbulence environments. A positive relationship between pennate diatoms and macroalgae suggests that macroalgae enhance settlement of this group by increasing the surface area upon which pennate diatoms (especially epiphytic species) can settle (see Round 1971 for review).

In summary, we examined the sources of vertical and horizontal spatial variability of phytoplankton assemblages in tidepools. We did not detect strong patterns of zonation in tidepools across the intertidal gradient, and the potential abiotic and biotic factors regulating these assemblages did not adequately describe variability at this spatial scale. Conversely, a large amount of the variance in phytoplankton abundance was attributed to variability on the horizontal spatial scale, within zones. At this scale, the biotic characteristics of individual pools explained some of the variability in phytoplankton abundance, although abiotic factors did not appear as important. Certain components of the grazer communities of each pool explained some of the variance in phytoplankton abundance for all phytoplankton groups except centric diatoms. The nutrient regime also was an important factor for all groups although the relative importance of different nutrients varied among phytoplankton groups. Our study underscores the importance of assessing the different sources of spatial variability in the successful explanation of patterns of community organization.

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