

On the very edge: faunal and functional responses to the interface between benthic seagrass and unvegetated sand assemblages

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The more important functional groups to which the macrobenthic seagrass and unvegetated-sediment fauna were allocated (i.e. those containing ≥ 10 individuals in any one sampling horizon) and their overall abundances (m^{-2}) in the various horizons.

1. Free-living, subsurface-feeding, infaunal, predatory worms (e.g. goniadid and nephtyid polychaetes)
+3: 174; +2: 122; +1: 93; 0: 122; -1: 98; -2: 104; -3: 145
2. Surface-feeding predatory worms (e.g. polyclad flatworms; nemertines; phyllodocid polychaetes)
+3: 168; +2: 133; +1: 168; 0: 93; -1: 35; -2: 6; -3: 6
3. Infaunal but surface-feeding, tubicolous or burrow-dwelling, omnivorous worms (e.g. nereid polychaetes)
+3: 58; +2: 52; +1: 23; 0: 29; -1: 0; -2: 6; -3: 35
4. Deposit-feeding, tubicolous or burrow-dwelling, infaunal worms with ciliated feeding palps, tentacles, etc., collecting material on or close to the sediment surface (e.g. spionidan, terebellidan and oweniid polychaetes)
+3: 69; +2: 98; +1: 46; 0: 93; -1: 156; -2: 168; -3: 203
5. Subsurface, free-living or burrow-dwelling, infaunal, 'sediment'-ingesting worms (e.g. scolecidan polychaetes)
+3: 52; +2: 93; +1: 133; 0: 93; -1: 64; -2: 93; -3: 52
6. Free-living, epifaunal, suspension-feeding ostracod crustaceans
+3: 64; +2: 41; +1: 46; 0: 23; -1: 0; -2: 12; -3: 0
7. Omnivorous, free-living peracaridan crustaceans (e.g. hadzioid amphipods, apseudoid and paratanaoid tanaidans; sphaeromatoid isopods)
+3: 226; +2: 127; +1: 116; 0: 58; -1: 12; -2: 23; -3: 0

8. Free-living, meiofauna-consuming peracaridan crustaceans (e.g. anthuroid isopods; phoxocephaloid and oedicerotoid amphipods)
+3: 278; +2: 185; +1: 156; 0: 104; -1: 17; -2: 17; -3: 41
9. Omnivorous/scavenging epifaunal decapod crustaceans consuming dead leaf and animal material (e.g. the macrophthalmid *Enigmaplax* and paguroids)
+3: 440; +2: 284; +1: 214; 0: 127; -1: 35; -2: 0; -3: 23
10. Periphyton- and leaf-grazing epifaunal gastropod molluscs (neritoids and trochoids)
+3: 87; +2: 35; +1: 64; 0: 29; -1: 6; -2: 0; -3: 0
11. Microphytobenthic-biofilm grazing epifaunal microgastropods (truncatelloids, rissoids, phasianelloids and small cerithioids)
+3: 521; +2: 469; +1: 330; 0: 365; -1: 64; -2: 29; -3: 12
12. Relatively large, free-living, sediment-surface associated, opportunistically feeding gastropods consuming mainly dead animal and plant material (*Velacumantus* and *Nassarius*)
+3: 52; +2: 81; +1: 6; 0: 41; -1: 17; -2: 17; -3: 0
13. Predatory/scavenging gastropods (muricoids, buccinoids and philinoids)
+3: 98; +2: 64; +1: 41; 0: 29; -1: 6; -2: 6; -3: 17
14. Sedentary, infaunal, burrow-dwelling or buried, suspension-feeding bivalve molluscs (e.g. galeommatoids, veneroids and tellinoids) and brachiopods (*Lingula*) [*Mysella* can also feed pedally within *Trypaea* burrows]
+3: 93; +2: 93; +1: 75; 0: 116; -1: 69; -2: 75; -3: 81