

Littoral annelid polychaetes inhabiting soft bottoms of the Barcelonès (Catalonia, NE Spain)

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Littoral annelid polychaetes inhabiting soft bottoms of the Barcelonès (Catalonia, NE Spain).- The distribution of polychaetes inhabiting littoral soft bottoms from five to 75 m depth in front of the Barcelonès Region (NE Spain) is presented here. The study includes 202 species indicating depth, type of sediment, and season in which each one was collected, and also the environment in which they most frequently were found. New records for the Mediterranean Sea, the Iberian peninsula, the Spanish Mediterranean coast, and Catalonia are listed.

Key words: Polychaeta, Catalogue, Soft bottoms, Barcelonès, Catalonia, Western Mediterranean.

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Introduction

Studies on polychaete systematics were initiated at the beginning of this century in Spain by ALAEJOS (1905), CABRERA (1909) and CENDRERO (1910). Between 1916 and 1935, surveys by Rioja established the basis of future studies. Significant catalogues of species from the Iberian peninsula have been carried out by IBÁÑEZ (1973a), CAMPOY (1979) and ARIÑO (1987). SAN MARTÍN & VIÉITEZ (1991) elaborated a catalogue of the polychaetes deposited in the National Museum of Natural History (Madrid) throughout Spain. The most complete identification keys of Iberian polychaetes were carried out by RIOJA (1931), IBÁÑEZ (1973b), CAMPOY (1982), SAN MARTÍN (1982a) and SARDÀ (1984).

The most relevant studies of systematics of polychaetes from soft bottoms in the Spanish Mediterranean area, which sometimes include identification keys are: RIOJA (1920) in Valencia, SAN MARTÍN (1982a) in Balears, CAPACCIONI-AZZATI (1983) and PÉREZ-RUZAFÀ (1989) in Murcia, and SARDÀ (1984) in Gibraltar. Surveys from the Catalan coast are those performed in Los Alfaques Bay (Ebro Delta) (CAPACCIONI-AZZATI, 1987; CAPACCIONI-AZZATI et al., 1990; MARTÍN, 1990), in the Gulf of Rosas (DESBRUYÈRES et al., 1972), in the Catalan-French coast (GUILLE, 1970, 1971), in Premià and Vilanova i la Geltrú (Maresme and Baix Penedès regions) (SARDÀ, 1986), and in the Maresme region (ROMERO et al., 1989). Nevertheless, studies carried out in the Barcelonès region are scarce: CUADRAS & PEREIRA (1977) reported the presence of *Laeonereis glauca*, *Neanthes caudata*, *Polydora ciliata*, and *Dodecaceria concharum* associated to shells inhabited by the anomuran *Dardanus arrosor*, at 50 m of depth. Ecological research was later performed in soft bottoms in front of the Barcelonès littoral (ROS et al., 1988, 1990; CORBERA & CARDELL, 1991; ROS & CARDELL, 1992; FLOS et al., 1992; MÉNDEZ, 1993, 1994). These studies reveal the high diversity and abundance of the group in the study area

suggesting that a complete and detailed catalogue of polychaete species is required.

The paper presents the distribution of species inhabiting littoral soft bottoms in the Barcelonès region.

Material and Methods

Study area

The study area (fig. 1) is located in the North-western Spanish coast along the Barcelonès region. Sampling sites were located in soft bottoms from 5 to 75 m depth, between 41°28'N, 2°19'E and 41°20'N, 2°10'E. The area comprises a coastal extension of 17.5 km and presents a high demographic density where Barcelona and Badalona are the most important cities. The littoral zone receives a high influence of domestic and industrial residuals. The main disturbance focus was the Sant Adrià del Besòs wastewater treatment plant, which provide a massive input of wastewater about 500 m off the shoreline, and of organic sludge coming from the submarine pipeline 4 km off the shoreline and 54 m depth (PARÉS, 1989). The Besòs River itself is also an important disturbance focus. Residuals produce eutrophication and incorporation of toxic pollutants in sediments which have damaged benthic macrofaunal communities (ROS et al., 1990; ROS & CARDELL, 1992; MÉNDEZ, 1993, 1994).

Data from CHECA et al. (1988), CORBERA & CARDELL (1991) and FLOS et al. (1992) referring to size grain of sediments reveal a general distribution pattern according to bathymetry (fig. 1). Sand bottoms are located between 5 and 25 m depth along the whole coastline. Detritic sand bottoms containing shell fragments are situated between 70 and 75 m depth at the south of the study area. Silty sand bottoms are located between 25 and 30 m depth, at the north of the mouth of the Besòs River, and between 60 and 65 m depth through the whole study area. Clayey sand has

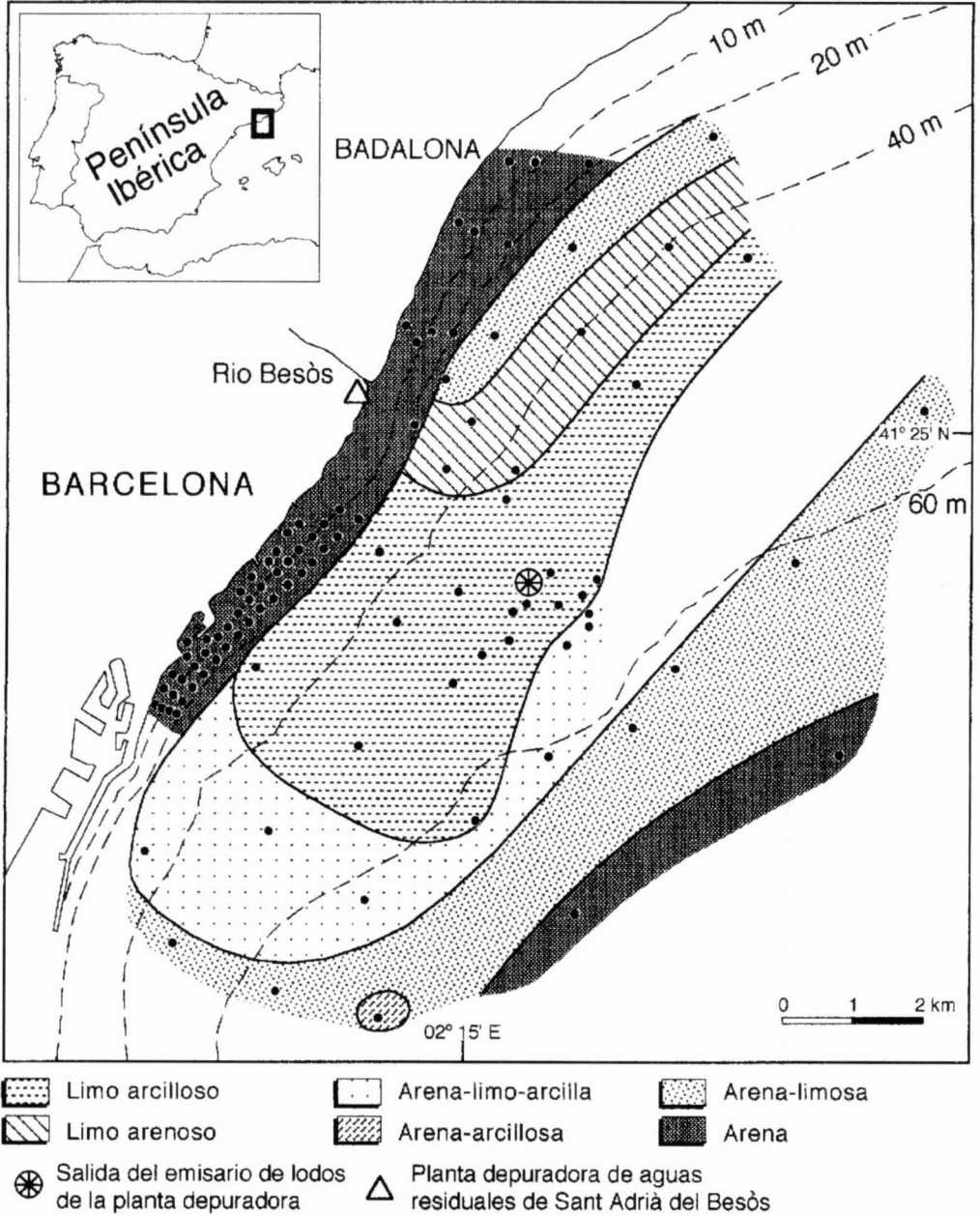


Fig. 1. Location of sampling sites and distribution of the different types of sediment in the study area.

Localización de las estaciones de muestreo y distribución de los distintos tipos de sedimento en el área de estudio.

only been registered in a small area at 70 m depth. Sandy silt bottoms correspond to a small zone between 36 and 55 m depth, in front of the mouth of the Besòs River. Clayey silt bottoms take up an extension of about 6 km between 30 and 63 m depth, at the SW of the mouth of the Besòs River and the sludge pipeline. These bottoms are also located between 45 and 48 m depth, at 3 km from the same river in a NE direction. The group of sand-silt-clay contains sediments of transition grain sizes and is situated at the south of the study area, between 30 and 65 m depth.

Sampling and processing of samples

Samples of sediments were collected in front of Barcelona between 10 and 75 m depth during July and November, 1987, and February and May, 1988 (SPIO Project; ROS & CARDELL, 1992), and also between 5 and 15 m depth during March, May, July and October, 1990 and 1991 (VOSA Project; MÉNDEZ, 1994). In front of Badalona, sampling was performed between 5 and 40 m depth in September, 1990 (CORBERA & CARDELL, 1991). Collection of samples was carried out with a van Veen grab (30 x 30 cm) and sediments were sieved through a 0.5 mm mesh. The retained fraction was fixed with 4% formaldehyde. Organisms were sorted and preserved in 70% ethyl alcohol. Additional samples of sediments were collected to determine grain size of sediments.

Polychaete specimens were identified using a stereoscopic microscope (40x) and a light microscope (1000x). The most general key of polychaetes identification from FAUCHALD (1977) was followed to determine families and genera, and that from FAUVEL (1923, 1927) for genera and species. The keys for the Iberian peninsula's polychaetes utilized were those from RIOJA (1931), CAMPOY (1982) and SARDÀ (1984). In some cases, literature referring to specific families was required:

LAUBIER(1967), LAUBIER & RAMOS (1973) and CASTELLI (1985) for Paraonidae; Giordanella (1966), RAMOS (1976) and LIGHT (1978) for Spionidae; GLÉMAREC (1966) for Magonidae; BHAUD (1972) for Chaetopteridae; LAUBIER (1960) and BLAKE (1991) for Cirratulidae; CAPACCIONI-AZZATI (1985), TORRES-GAVILA et al. (1989), GRAVINA & SOMASCHINI (1990) and WARREN (1991) for Capitellidae; HARTMANN-SCHRÖDER (1960, 1963) for Phyllodocidae; GRAVINA & GIANGRANDE (1988) for Hesionidae; KATZMANN et al. (1974) for Pilargiidae; SAN MARTÍN (1982a) and ALÓS (1988) for Syllidae; SAN MARTÍN (1982b) and RAINER & KALY (1988) for Nephtyidae; PARENTI (1961) for Dorvilleidae; MARTÍN (1989) for Oweniidae and GIANGRANDE & CASTELLI (1986) for Sabellidae.

The biological material included in this catalogue was collected to perform ecological studies. Almost all the specimens were dried to determine their biomass. Only specimens with systematic problems were conserved in order to make a more detailed analysis of their structures. Due to this, a collection of the polychaetes conforming this catalogue does not exist.

Characteristics of the data

This catalogue has been elaborated according to the systematic ordination proposed by FAUCHALD (1977). All the catalogued species contain the following data related to their distribution:

a. Depth.

b. Type of sediment. According to data obtained by CHECA et al. (1988), CORBERA & CARDELL (1991) and FLOS et al. (1992) in the same area, granulometry of sediments was expressed as the percentage (dry weight) of the fractions of clay (< 0.002 mm), silt (0.002 to 0.062 mm) and sand (0.062 to 2 mm), following the granulometric nomenclature of SHEPARD (1954). This method classifies sediments according to a triangular graph which relates the proportions of each fraction resulting ten different types. Only the following categories have

been found in the study area: CSI. Clayey silt; SSI. Sandy silt; SSIC. Sand-silt-clay; CS. Clayey sand; SIS. Silty sand; and sand. Moreover, sand samples (more than 75% of sand), were classified according to WENTHORTH (1922), in function of the median of the diameter of all the particles. Four groups were found in the study area: VFS. Very fine sand (0.0625 to 0.125 mm); FS. Fine sand (0.125 to 0.250 mm); MS. Median sand (0.250 to 0.500 mm); COS. Coarse sand (0.500 to 1.0 mm).

c. Season: SP. Spring; S. Summer; A. Autumn; W. Winter.

d. Most frequent environment. The type of sediment and depth in which each species was found with the highest frequency is given. To synthesize this information, the different types of sediment and depth have been grouped according to the general distribution pattern of sediments in the study area (fig. 1). The following categories have been distinguished: mud (M), in which silt and clay materials are predominant (CSI, SSI, and SSIC). Muddy sand, which includes sediments containing 65 to 75% of sand (CS and SIS); this category has been subdivided in shallow muddy sand (SMS) from 25 to 45 m depth, and deep muddy sand (DMS) from 50 to 70 m depth. Sand (VFS, FS, MS, and COS) where two groups have been distinguished: shallow sand (SHS), located between 5 and 20 m depth, and detritic sand (DS), situated at 70 and 75 m depth.

Results

A total of 202 species distributed in 133 genera and 39 families are listed (table 1).

Table 1 also presents depth, type of sediment and season, and the most frequent environment where they were found.

Discussion

Specimens belonging to genera *Aglao-*

rophthalmus, *Ophelia*, *Polycirrus*, *Polymnia* and *Potamilla* have not been classified until specific level due to the loss of some systematically important body structures during treatment and handling of samples. Some complete and well preserved specimens of *Chaetozone* sp. 1, *Chaetozone* sp. 2 and *Chone* sp. have not been assigned to any species described in the literature. These are presently being revised under light microscope and scanning electron microscope. The Pilargid *Sigambra* cf. *tentaculata* is similar to *Sigambra tentaculata*, described in Virginia, U.S.A., but Mediterranean specimens lack ventral smooth setae (KATZMANN et al., 1974).

In relation to their geographic distribution, all the species have been reported previously in the Mediterranean Sea and the Iberian peninsula, except for *Hesionura serrata* and *Spiophanes berkeleyorum*, which are reported for the first time in the Mediterranean Sea and Spain. *Aonides paucibranchiata*, *Axiothella constricta* and *Ophryotrocha hartmanni* have previously been found in the Mediterranean, but not in Spain. The following species have been reported previously in the Iberian peninsula, but not in its Mediterranean coasts:

Goniada emerita: Atlantic (Spain, CAMPOY, 1974, 1979, 1982; IBÁÑEZ, 1973a; SAN MARTÍN & VIÉITEZ, 1991. Portugal, FAUVEL, 1914; AMOUREUX, 1974; AMOUREUX & CALVARIO, 1981).

Goniada norvegica: Cantabric Sea and Atlantic (AMOUREUX, 1972, 1973, 1974; IBÁÑEZ, 1973a; CAMPOY, 1974, 1979, 1982).

Jasmineira caudata: Atlantic (CAMPOY, 1974, 1979, 1982; AMOUREUX, 1974; LÓPEZ-JAMAR & GONZÁLEZ, 1987).

Neanthes succinea: Atlantic (Spain, IBÁÑEZ, 1972, 1973a; CAMPOY, 1979; LÓPEZ-JAMAR, 1981. Portugal, AMOUREUX & CALVARIO, 1981; SALDANHA, 1984; CALVARIO, 1984). Cantabric Sea (RIOJA, 1918).

Nereis lamellosa: Atlantic (RIOJA, 1918; BELLAN, 1960; IBÁÑEZ, 1973a; CAMPOY, 1979; LÓPEZ-JAMAR, 1982; LÓPEZ-JAMAR & MEJUTO, 1986).

Code	Type of sediment									Season				Most frequent environment
	CSI	SSI	SSIC	CS	SIS	VFS	FS	MS	COS	SP	S	A	W	
42														SHS
43														M, DMS, DS
44														M, DMS
45														M
46														SHS
47														M
48														M *
49														SHS *
50														M, DMS
51														M *, SHS *
52														M, SMS *
53														M, SMS *, DMS
54														DS
55														DMS
56														M *
57														M
58														SHS
59														DMS *, DS
60														M
61														M *
62														SHS *
63														DMS
64														DMS *
65														M *, DMS *

Code	Type of sediment								Season				Most frequent environment	
	CSI	SSI	SSIC	CS	SIS	VFS	FS	MS	COS	SP	S	A		W
66					■					■				DMS *
67							■	■			■			SHS
68					■	■	■	■		■	■			SHS *
69	■		■		■							■		M *, SHS *, DS *
70						■	■				■			SHS
71					■	■	■				■	■		SHS *
72	■		■		■		■				■	■		M *.SMS *.DMS *
73						■	■				■			SHS
74							■	■			■	■		SHS
75						■	■				■	■		SHS *
76					■			■			■	■	■	DMS *
77							■	■			■	■		SHS *
78					■	■	■	■			■	■		SHS *
79	■		■		■		■	■			■	■	■	M
80							■	■			■	■		SHS *
81						■					■			SHS
82			■								■			M *
83	■		■		■		■				■	■	■	DMS *
84								■			■			DS
85			■				■				■	■	■	M *
86							■				■	■		SHS
87							■	■			■	■		SHS
88							■	■			■	■		SHS
89							■	■			■	■		SHS
90	■	■			■			■			■	■	■	M

Code	Type of sediment									Season				Most frequent environment
	CSI	SSI	SSIC	CS	SIS	VFS	FS	MS	COS	SP	S	A	W	
91														SHS
92														M *
93														DS
94														SHS
95														M *
96														SHS
97														DMS *
98														M, DMS
99														M *
100														M
101														DMS *
102														DS *
103														DMS *
104														DS *
105														SHS *
106														M *
107														SHS
108														SHS *
109														SHS
110														DS *
111														SMS *, DMS *
112														M *
113														SMS *
114														M
115														DS *

Code	Type of sediment									Season				Most frequent environment
	CSI	SSI	SSIC	CS	SIS	VFS	FS	MS	COS	SP	S	A	W	
140	■	■	■	■	■			■	■	■	■	■	■	M
141							■				■	■		SHS *
142									■				■	DS
143		■	■		■					■	■			DMS *
144							■	■			■	■		SHS
145						■		■		■	■		■	SHS *
146		■	■		■		■	■		■	■	■	■	M *
147		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	SMS
148						■	■	■		■	■	■		SHS *
149					■					■			■	DMS *
150					■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	SHS *, DS
151		■	■		■			■	■	■	■			M, DMS
152					■		■	■		■	■		■	DMS
153	■		■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	DMS, DS *
154		■	■										■	M *
155	■	■	■		■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	M
156	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	M
157	■	■	■		■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	M, SMS
158	■	■	■		■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	M, DMS *
159							■			■	■			SHS *
160	■				■					■	■	■	■	DMS *
161					■								■	DMS *
162					■			■	■	■	■			DMS

Armandia polyophtalma: Atlantic (Spain, BELLAN, 1960; IBÁÑEZ, 1973a; CAMPOY, 1974. Portugal, MARQUES, 1942). Cantabric Sea (RIOJA, 1931).

Podarkeopsis capensis: Atlantic (Spain, LÓPEZ-JAMAR, 1982; LÓPEZ-JAMAR & MEJUTO, 1986, 1988; LÓPEZ-JAMAR & GONZÁLEZ, 1987, as *Gyptis capensis*).

Six species previously reported in the Mediterranean Spanish coast have not been found before in Catalonia. These are:

Glycera gigantea, Valencia (RIOJA, 1920); *Onuphis eremita*, Málaga (IBÁÑEZ, 1973b); *Exogone dispar*, Gibraltar (SARDÀ, 1984), Murcia and Levante (CAMPOY, 1982), Andalucía (BARATECH, 1984), Alborán (TEMPLADO et al., 1986) and Baleares (SAN MARTÍN, 1982a; SAN MARTÍN & VIÉITEZ, 1991); *Sphaerosyllis xarifae*, Murcia (CAMPOY & ALQUEZAR, 1982), Andalucía (Baratech, 1984), Levante (CAMPOY, 1982), Baleares (SAN MARTÍN, 1982a, 1984; SAN MARTÍN & VIÉITEZ, 1979, 1991); *Petta pusilla*, Valencia (CAMPOY, 1982; CAPACCIONI-AZZATI, 1983) and Murcia (PÉREZ-RUZAFÀ, 1989); *Fabricia filamentosa*, Murcia (PÉREZ-RUZAFÀ, 1989).

Referring to seasons, 33.7% of the species were collected during the four seasons of the year, and 40.3% in two or three seasons, while 6.1% were reported only in spring, 13.8% in summer, 1.5% in autumn, and 4.6% in winter.

Most of the species included in this catalogue present a wide range of distribution inside the study area (ie. *Chone duneri*, *Glycera rouxii*, *Lumbrineris impatiens*, *Nephtys hombergii*, *Notomastus latericeus*, *Poecilochaetus serpens*, *Prionospio cirrifera*, *Prionospio malmgreni* and *Pseudopolydora antennata*). Nevertheless, it was evident that most of the reported species (82.7%) showed a higher frequency in only one of the five defined environments in function to depth and granulometry of sediment: 31% of the species were found more frequently in shallow sand, 25.6% in mud, 12.3% in deep muddy sand, 9.9% in detritic sand, and 3.9% in shallow muddy sand. Only 17.3% were found more frequently in more than one environment.

The distribution of species obtained here is compared with the faunistic composition in soft bottoms subjected to similar environmental conditions (depth and granulometry) from the Catalanian coast (GUILLE, 1970, 1971; DESBRUYÈRES et al., 1972; SARDÀ, 1986; ROMERO et al., 1989).

Since most of the species reported here present a wide range of distribution, only the most frequent environment in which they were found was compared with the bibliographic data. Almost half of the catalogued species have previously been found in the same environment as in the present study (table 1). The revision of the general distribution of the remaining species taking into account data from the Spanish Mediterranean coast (CAMPOY, 1982; CAPACCIONI-AZZATI, 1983, 1987; SARDÀ, 1984; CAPACCIONI-AZZATI et al., 1987; PÉREZ-RUZAFÀ, 1989; MARTÍN, 1991) confirms the presence of most of the species in the indicated environment. Nevertheless, it is important to point out the presence of other species which most frequent environment was not reported previously by such authors in the Spanish Mediterranean coast. They are: *Malacoceros fuliginosus*, *Polydora ciliata*, *P. hoplura*, *Pseudopolydora antennata*, *Dodecaceria concharum*, *Capitella capitata*, *Euclymene collaris*, *Anaitides mucosa*, *Eulalia viridis*, *Nereiphylla paretii*, *Glycinde nordmanni*, *Nephtys paradoxa*, *Amphitrite gracilis*, *Hydroides elegans* and *Serpula concharum* in shallow sand; *Aricidea catherinae*, *Polydora caeca*, *Lagis koreni* and *Serpula vermicularis* in shallow muddy sand; *Polydora caeca*, *Armandia cirrosa*, *Harmothoe lunulata*, *Synelmis klatti*, *Eunice harassi* and *Sabella bipunctata* in deep muddy sand; *Aricidea cerrutii*, *Pseudopolydora antennata*, *Cirriformia tentaculata*, *Capitella capitata*, *Armandia cirrosa*, *Anaitides mucosa*, *Harmothoe antilopes*, *Pholoe minuta*, *Pilargis verrucosa*, *Exogone naidina*, *Syllis gracilis*, *Lumbrineris coccinea*, *L. funchalensis*, *Dorvillea rubrovittata* and *Sabellaria spinulosa* in mud; *Anaitides mucosa*, *Syllis garciai*, *Ehlersia ferrugina*, *Parapionosyllis minuta* and *Chone collaris* in detritic sand.

Four of these species (*Polydora hoplura*,

Nereiphylla paretii, *Ehlersia ferrugina* and *Lumbrineris coccinea*), inhabiting shallow sand and detritic sand have previously been found associated to coraligenous, mussel beds and other biogenic structures. Such habitats provide a protection system comparable to the structure resulting from the mixture of sand and shelly fragments which can be found in these sandy bottoms (SEBENS, 1991).

Some species such as *Aricidea catherinae*, *Euclymene collaris*, *Armandia cirrosa*, *Synelmis klatti*, *Glycinde nordmanni* and *Amphitrite gracilis* present a wide range of distribution on soft bottoms and are absent in other substrates. Others (*Pholoe minuta*, *Harmothoe lunulata*, *Amphiglena mediterranea*, *Exogone naidina*, *Syllis garciai*, *S. gracilis* and *Lumbrineris funchalensis*) show a wider range of distribution since they can be found in soft bottoms and also associated to algae, *Posidonia* beds, rocks and biogenic structures. Their new environment reported here confirms the ubiquitous character of these species.

Serpulids normally live associated to hard substrates such as rocks, stones and shells. The presence of *Hydroides elegans*, *Serpula concharum* and *S. vermicularis* in soft bottoms is explained by their attachment to small fragments of stones and shells in the sediment.

Malacoceros fuliginosus, *Polydora ciliata*, *Pseudopolydora antennata* and *Capitella capitata* have been mentioned as typical pollution indicators in marine soft bottoms (PEARSON & ROSENBERG, 1978). Their presence in shallow sand and mud in the Barcelonès region is not surprising due to the organic enrichment of sediments by the wastewater treatment plant.

Resumen

Anélidos poliquetos de fondos blandos litorales del Barcelonès (Cataluña, NE España)

Se ha estudiado la distribución de anélidos poliquetos de los fondos blandos

litorales entre 5 y 75 m de profundidad frente a la comarca del Barcelonès (NE España). La relación que se presenta comprende un total de 202 especies para las que se indica la profundidad, el tipo de sedimento y estación del año en que fueron encontradas, así como el ambiente en el cual fueron registradas con mayor frecuencia. Estos datos se presentan en forma de tabla (tabla 1) en la que las especies aparecen siguiendo un orden sistemático. Por otra parte, se incluyen los nuevos registros para el mar Mediterráneo, la península ibérica, las costas mediterráneas españolas y para Cataluña.

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