

OSTRACODS BIOFACIES ALONG BERTIOGA CHANNEL, S. PAULO, BRAZIL

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The relationships with the environment define limits to the different Ostracoda species, making possible that changes at their associations have been related to the abiotic changes occurring at the water column or at the bottom sediment. The study area is located at 23° 20' and 25° 20' S and 44° 45' and 48° 10' W, inside the region called "Baixada Santista" which includes the cities of Santos, São Vicente, Cubatão, Bertioga and Guarujá nearby.

A total of 56 samplings from 28 stations were collected in two different periods, Winter 1997 and Summer 1998. In order to characterize the assemblages occurring in the sub-environments at the Bertioga Channel, have been made the identification of the Ostracoda species at each station. Besides, four sedimentary analyses were carried out along this study: granulometric analysis, organic Carbon, totals Nitrogen and Sulfur. All of them were correlated with parameters like temperature, salinity, pH, and O₂, during the above mentioned seasons. An emphasis to the permanent population (species occurring at both seasons) is present in all analysis.

Three main compartments were found during both seasons (Winter and Summer). The first comprehend stations one to four, with an average number of individuals and few species. The second represents the major part of the channel from the station 5 to station 21, where the abundance shows a wide range at stations and the diversity was the lowest during this study. Two species of *Cyprideis* are dominant at almost every station. The greater abundance is found between stations 21 and 28. The preference of the fauna for a marine environment, what confronts with the main characteristics of the channel, is possibly indicated by the low diversity at the major part of Bertioga channel. An expressive number of species with high richness and low dominance were found at few places.

Finaciamento: FAPESP/CAPES