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# OCEANOGRAPHY OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEA

**SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES OF  
TWO INTERCONNECTED BASINS**

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**EFFECTS OF WET AND DRY DEPOSITION ON PHYTOPLANKTON  
(PARTICULARLY ON *EMILIANA HUXLEYI*) DYNAMICS IN THE  
NORTHEASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

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**ABSTRACT**

In order to understand the effect of atmospheric dust on phytoplankton production, the phytoplankton abundance and biomass values from surface waters at two stations (one coastal and one open) in the northeastern Mediterranean Sea were monitored along with usual physico-chemical parameters and satellite observation on atmospheric dust as well as precipitation data during December 2000 and November 2001. In terms of abundance, *Emiliana huxleyi*, particularly were almost always dominated the phytoplankton in the open sea, while in the coastal station diatoms were the dominant group. However, in the study area, even during their high occurrences in autumn, the maximum concentration of *E. huxleyi* did not exceed 50,000 cells/l which is, much lower than those reported from the Black Sea and northeastern Atlantic during bloom periods which may also cause high reflectance from satellite observations. Our preliminary results did not show a significant effect of atmospheric deposition on phytoplankton production.