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HAZAR DENİZİ'NİN MART 2001'DEKİ FİTOPLANKTON DAĞILIMI

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ABSTRACT: Distribution of the Caspian Sea phytoplankton in 2001. In order to identify the species composition, abundance, and biomass of phytoplankton of the Caspian Sea, samples were obtained in different region in March 2001.

Surface samples collected from a total of 15 stations were analysed to determine species composition and abundance and biomass of phytoplankton of the Caspian Sea. The average biomass and abundance values were found 1161 µg l⁻¹ and 79632 cell l⁻¹ respectively.

A total of 48 different species of phytoplankters were identified during the study. The members of small flagellates that are lower than 15µ were found to be the more abundant compared to *Dinophyceae* and *Bacillariophyceae*. Since the sampling was restricted to the eastern and south where river input is low, species of *Chlorophyta* and *Cyanophyta* were not abundant. During the species identification, two different Tintinnid species were found in only 5 stations. Since sampling was carried out from the surface layer, dinoflagellata species *Prorocentrum scutellum* was observed in all stations. *Cerataulina bergonii*, a diatom, was also observed in almost all stations in high densities. The spread of other species for each station showed somewhat variability. When all data from all stations were combined, although nannoplankton mainly small flagellate group, constituted %57 of total abundance and %23 of total biomass, microphytoplanktonic dinoflagellats and diatoms, constituted %37 and %6 of total abundance and they constituted %49 and %28 of total biomass respectively.