

Study of taxonomy and ecology of Planktonic Copepods of Poecilostomatida in Bahraikan waters (Northwestern Persian Gulf)

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Abstract

The present investigation is based on separation and identification of Planktonic Poecilostomatoida in Bahraikan waters during July, August, October of 2010 and December, February, April of 2011. In this study The order of Poecilostomatida was represented by 3 species, *Corycaeus andrewsi* and *Sapphirina nigromaculata* and *Saphirella*- like copepodid. Abundance of each species was measured in sampling months. The highest density of Poecilostomatoid copepods were recorded in August and October 2010. *C. andrewsi* with relative frequency of 73% was dominant species during the studying period among Poecilostomatoida and maximum abundance of it were observed in October 2010. *Saphirella*- like copepodid was observed in all sampling months. Maximum abundance of this species was in August and October 2010 and this report is the first report of this species in the Persian Gulf. There was Positive significant correlation coefficient between density of *C. andrewsi* and water salinity ($P < 0.05$) but there was no significant correlation between the rest species and water parameters.

Keywords: taxonomy, ecology, Copepods, Poecilostomatida, Persian Gulf