

Functional biology of sympatric krill species - DTU Orbit (08/11/2017)

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Here we compare the functional biology of the sympatric krill species, *Meganocyttiphanes norvegica* and *Thysanoessa inermis*. For *M. norvegica*, we investigated functional responses on diatoms and copepods, together with prey size spectra on plankton >400 µm and copepods in the size range 500–3220 µm. For *T. inermis*, only prey size spectrum on plankton >400 µm were investigated. The prey size ranges of both species include organisms >400 µm, and they consequently graze on several trophic levels. However, *T. inermis* feed on cells <10 µm equivalent spherical diameter (ESD), whereas *M. norvegica* only feed on cells >10 µm. *Meganocyttiphanes norvegica* show maximum predation on 800–1600 µm sized copepods, corresponding to a predator:prey size ratio of 17.0±2.2. Functional response experiments with *M. norvegica* follow a Holling type III functional response, both when feeding on diatoms and copepods, but with an order of magnitude higher ingestion rate on the copepod prey. The two functional groups, *M. norvegica* and *Thysanoessa* spp., overlap in prey size spectra. However, there are differences in their ability to exploit different prey classes. Here, we present clearance rates of both krill species on natural plankton illustrating the two species' wide particle range spectra

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