南大洋リュッツォ・ホルム湾沖におけるサルパ類の分布と個体群構造

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Distribution and population structure of two salps, *Salpa thompsoni* and *Ihlea racovitzai* off Lützow-Holm Bay in the Southern Ocean during austral summer

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To investigate the distribution and population structure of salps which sustain the Antarctic ecosystem, stratified and quantitative samplings between surface and 2000 m using an RMT 8 net (mouth area: 8 m², mesh size: 4.5 mm, six depths: 0–50–100–200 m and 200–500–1000–2000 m) were conducted off Lützow-Holm Bay during austral summer of 2005 and 2006. The body length (BL: oral–atrial distance) and maturity stages (MS) of *Salpa thompsoni* were determined. No description of MS for *Ihlea racovitzai* was available at the time of this study. Therefore, we measured only the BL and separated into the aggregate and solitary forms for *I. racovitzai*.

S. thompsoni and I. racovitzai were observed, the latter being dominant numerically. Whereas I. racovitzai were observed in both 2005 and 2006, S. thompsoni occurred only in 2005. Spatial distribution and generation composition of these two species were different. I. racovitzai abundantly distributed near the ice edge area where Antarctic Winter Water was widely observed. I. racovitzai abundance in 2006 (mean 0.22 ± 0.13 ind. m⁻²) was lower than that in 2005 (mean 6.69 ± 3.61 ind. m⁻²). The solitaries were dominant in 2005 and 2006. Small solitaries of I. racovitzai dominated in 2005, but they drastically declined in 2006. Average Chl a in 2006 (0.12–0.22 μg L⁻¹) was lower than that in 2005 (0.44–1.05 μg L⁻¹). Our result showed positive correlation between I. racovitzai abundance and average Chl a (p<0.05). It is thus considered that high mortarity of young individuals and food shortage might be causing the decline in I. racovitzai abundance in 2006. S. thompsoni abundantly occurred at the station (Stn. L9) with warm Summer Surface Water. The aggregates comprised 95.7% of S. thompsoni. S. thompsoni solitaries distributed in the upper 500 m whereas the aggregates occurred between surface and 2000 m. S. thompsoni population was composed of small immature aggregates (BL: 3–11 mm, MS: 0–2) and mature solitaries (BL: 46–83 mm, MS: 4a–5b), suggesting the solitaries were reproducing. In the present study, we did not observe the mature aggregates and immature solitaries. This result suggested that S. thompsoni could not complete its life cycle off Lützow-Holm Bay because the sexual reproduction of the aggregates was deactivated.

2005 および 2006 年の夏季に、南大洋リュッツォ・ホルム湾沖において RMT 8 ネット (網口面積 8 m^2 、目合い 4.5 mm) による動物プランクトンの各層定量採集が行われた。本研究では、これらの試料に基づきサルパ類の空間分布と個体群構造に関する研究を行った。 Salpa thompsoni に関しては体長 (BL) および成熟段階 (MS) を調べた。 Ihlea racovitzai では体長測定のみを行った。