Biology and Palaeobiology of Bryozoans

Edited by Peter J. Hayward, John S. Ryland and Paul D. Taylor

Proceedings of the 9th International Bryozoology Conference
School of Biological Sciences
University of Wales, Swansea, 1992

Olsen & Olsen, Fredensborg 1994

International Symposium Series
Distribution of freshwater and brackish-water Bryozoa (Phylactolaemata, Gymnolaemata) in Israel

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Abstract

The paper briefly sums up the present knowledge about the freshwater and brackish-water Bryozoa of Israel and shows their geographical distribution.

Keywords: Bryozoa, Phylactolaemata, Gymnolaemata, Israel, zoogeography.

Species list

Presently 10 phylactolaemate species are known from Israel:

*Fredericella sultana* Blumenbach, 1779  
*Plumatella emarginata* Allman, 1844  
*P. casmiana* Oka, 1907  
*P. repens* (Linné, 1758)  
*P. fungosa* (Pallas, 1768)  
*P. reticulata* Wood, 1988  
*Hyalinella punctata* (Hancock, 1850)  
*Lophopus crystallinus* (Pallas, 1768)  
*Lophopodella capensis* (Sollas, 1908)  
*L. carteri* (Hyatt, 1866).

One gymnolaemate species occurring in brackish water has been described: *Victorella pavida* Saville Kent, 1870.

Zoogeography

*Plumatella repens*, *P. emarginata* and *Fredericella sultana* are the most common and the most widely distributed species; they are followed by *P. fungosa* and *P. casmiana*. *Hyalinella punctata* seems to be rare. *Lophopus crystallinus* is well represented in the Hula Nature Reserve area. The zoogeographically striking features are the occurrence in the Hula Nature Reserve of *Lophopodella carteri* the nearest hitherto cited occurrences of which are distant some 1500-2000 km, then the presence on the Golan Heights of *L. capensis*, an Ethiopian species known from South Africa and Kenya, and finally the occurrence in the Kefar Barukh Reservoir of *Plumatella reticulata*, a species hitherto described only in North America.

References

