

The Deep-water corals of Cyprus: Environmental settings and ecological features (CYprus Cold-corals Levantine Sea, Eastern Mediterranean: CYCLAMEN)

Orejas C^{1*}, Jiménez C^{2,3*}, Abu Alhaja R², Achilleos K³, Avgousti A², Aurelle D⁴, Ferrier-Pagès C⁵, Gori A⁶, Hadjiioannou L³, Kamidis N^{3,7}, Lo Iacono C⁸, Petrou A³, Reynaud S⁵, Rivera J⁹, Rottier C⁵, Sakellariou D¹⁰

1 Centro Oceanográfico de Baleares, Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO) • 2 The Cyprus Institute (CYI) • 3 Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre (EPERC) • 4 Aix Marseille Université, CNRS, IRD • 5 Centre Scientifique de Monaco (CSM) • 6 Universitat de Barcelona (UB) • 7 Fisheries Research Institute (FRI) • 8 National Oceanography Centre (NOC) • 9 Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO) • 10 Hellenic Center of Marine Research (HCMR)

* By consensus, authors arranged alphabetically after lead authors C. Orejas (cova.orejas@ba.ieo.es) and C. Jimenez (c.jimenez@cyi.ac.cy)

AIMS

- Mapping and environmental characterization of Deep-water corals (DWC) habitats of Cyprus
- Increase knowledge on biological and ecological characteristics of the DWC of Cyprus
- Capacity building through the expansion of expertise on DWC in professionals from Cyprus institutions

FIELD WORK

Geomorphology: Multibeam echosounder & Side Scan Sonar

Biological & ecological studies: preservation of coral samples

Environmental characterization: CTD, water & zooplankton sampling

Benthic communities: ROV video transects

ROV collection of live coral specimens

Maintenance of live corals on board

Location of study sites (8th-11th June, 2015), SE Cyprus

CYCLAMEN survey on board the RV AEGAEON

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Digital terrain model of the surveyed area (multi beam echosounder)

Temperature, salinity & fluorescence profiles

***Dendrophyllia cf. ramea* population at 137 m depth**

Large specimen of *Dendrophyllia cf. ramea*

Epibiotic communities: Bryozoan *Hippaliosina cf. depressa*

Dissemination: Live *Dendrophyllia cf. ramea* in the Ocean Aquarium, Protaras, Cyprus

Ecophysiology: *Dendrophyllia cf. ramea* in the CSM aquaria, Monaco

PERSPECTIVES

- Geomorphology and water column features
- Zooplankton community and benthic associated fauna
- Features (e.g. distribution patterns, size structure) of this singular *Dendrophyllia cf. ramea* population
- Tolerance of *Dendrophyllia cf. ramea* to environmental changes (ecophysiological experiments)
- Dissemination activities



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