

Resting eggs of zooplankton (Copepoda and Cladocera) from the Kiel Bay and adjacent waters (southwestern Baltic)

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Abstract

Abstract Resting eggs of four species of calanoid copepods and three species of cladocerans were collected from sediments up to 5 cm depth from the Kiel Bay and adjacent waters in the southwestern Baltic Sea during April-May 1994. All but one species of cladoceran was successfully hatched/reared in the laboratory. In the Kiel Bay, egg abundances varied from 1.8×10^5 to $7.4 \times 10^5 \text{ m}^{-2}$. Hatching success of copepod eggs collected from all depths was high (49 to 94%), but was 0 to 79% for cladoceran eggs. Darkness did not seem to affect hatching. Eggs found in the 4 to 5 cm layer of sediment were estimated to be about 15 yr old, showing the presence of an "egg bank" in the Baltic. Formation of resting eggs may be a genetic trait acquired during the ice ages.

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