

Structure of the pelagic cnidarian community in Lützow–Holm Bay in the Indian sector of the Southern Ocean

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Abstract

The structure of the pelagic cnidarian community in Lützow–Holm Bay in the Indian sector of East Antarctica was investigated in January 2005 and 2006. Zooplankton samples from six discrete depths (surface to 2000 m) obtained using an RMT-8 yielded 4666 individuals of 31 species of cnidarian. Cnidarian abundance and carbon biomass were far greater in 2005 than in 2006. The biomass of macrozooplankton was large in the upper 200 m in 2005, but concentrated at 200–500 m in 2006, except for Euphausiacea. The most dominant species was *Diphyes antarctica*, followed by *Dimophyes arctica* and *Muggiaea bargmannae*. Four species had never been collected from East Antarctica; of these, *Solmissus incisa* was a first record in the Southern Ocean. Cluster analysis revealed the following three major communities: the epipelagic (0–200 m), in summer surface, winter, and upper modified circumpolar deep waters (MCDW); the upper mesopelagic (200–500 m), in upper MCDW; and the lower meso- and bathypelagic (500–2000 m), in lower MCDW. The epipelagic and lower meso- and bathypelagic communities are likely reduced in abundance/biomass when primary production is low, due to bottom-up control, while the upper mesopelagic community remains stable.

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1. Introduction

Pelagic cnidarians prey on zooplankton and fish larvae, and this may affect the meso- and bathypelagic ecosystems (Larson et al., 1991; Vinogradov and Shushkina, 2002; Lindsay and Hunt, 2005; Youngbluth et al., 2008; Stemmann et al., 2008). However, very few studies have focused on the role of cnidarians in the pelagic ecosystem of the Weddell Sea (Pagès and

Kurbjeweit, 1994; Pagès et al., 1994; Pagès and Schnack-Schiel, 1996; Pugh et al., 1997; Pagès, 1997). The lack of information on cnidarians is most likely due to the difficulty of quantifying these creatures due to their vulnerability to net sampling. Furthermore, some analyses separated large scyphozoans from other zooplankton samples (Pagès, 1997).

In the last two decades, Antarctic zooplankton communities have been studied mainly in West Antarctica, including the Weddell Sea, Scotia Sea, Antarctic Peninsula Archipelago, and Ross Sea (Hopkins, 1985, 1987; Hopkins and Torres, 1988; Hopkins et al., 1993; Hubold et al., 1988; Atkinson and Peck, 1988; Boysen-Ennen and Piatkowski,

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1988; Boysen-Ennen et al., 1991). In contrast, very few studies have been conducted in East Antarctica, and those that have been done there have targeted the epipelagic community (Hosie et al., 2000; Chiba et al., 2001; Takahashi et al., 2002; Hunt and Hosie, 2003; Hunt et al., 2007).

The Cosmonaut Sea including Lützow–Holm Bay has a complicated and dynamic oceanographic environment affected interannual variation of Antarctic Circumpolar Current and Coastal Current (Hunt et al., 2007). Thus, macrozooplankton assemblages in the Cosmonaut Sea exhibit interannual variation in zooplankton density, biomass, and assemblages, and that this variation reflected the different histories of spatially and temporally separated water masses, which were structured by a combination of bottom-up and top-down processes (Hunt et al., 2007).

This study sought to clarify the structure of the pelagic cnidarian community in Lützow–Holm Bay in the Indian Ocean sector during January 2005 and 2006. We also examined other macrozooplankton assemblages and vertical distribution patterns to estimate the determinants of the cnidarian distribution.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Net sampling

We conducted research cruises from 6 to 13 January 2005 and 12 to 17 January 2006 on the Training and Research Vessel (TR/V) *Umitaka-maru* of Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology (TUMSAT) in Lützow–Holm Bay (Table 1; Fig. 1). In both years, zooplankton were sampled at five stations using a rectangular midwater trawl (RMT)-1+8 equipped with three sets of opening/closing nets systems (Baker et al., 1973). The sampling stations in 2006 were located about one degree north of those in 2005 due to the delayed ice edge retreat in 2006 (Fig. 1). The northern two stations in 2005 (Stns. 05-L1 and -L9) were located offshelf, and the remaining stations (Stns. 05-L4, -L8, and -L12) were situated along the continental slope at the ice edge (Fig. 1). In contrast, in 2006, all five stations were located far from the slope water, although 06-L4, -L8, and -L12 were situated near the ice edge (Fig. 1). Two tows were deployed at each station, one from 200 to 0 m depth (0–50–100–200 m) and a second from 2000

Table 1

Sampling data of a RMT-1+8 off Lützow–Holm Bay, Indian sector, by TR/V *Umitaka-maru* in 2005 and 2006.

Stn.	Date	Time (UTC)	Position		Bottom		Vol filtered (m ³) (bottom, middle, top)
			Lat. (S)	Long. (E)	Depth (m)	Sampling depth (m)	
2005							
05-L1	6 Jan.	15:10–16:49	66–29.5	36–00.0	4535–4551	1800–1000–500–200	13,395, 13,910, 10,819
	6 Jan.	17:33–18:41	66–35.3	35–54.8	4490	200–100–50–0	7212, 6697, 6182
05-L4	7 Jan.	19:59–22:43	67–43.3	35–50.6	2821–3264	2000–1000–500–200	19,577, 16,486, 12,879
	7 Jan.	23:20–00:55	67–45.0	35–30.0	3156	200–100–50–0	6697, 7212, 7212
05-L8	9 Jan.	18:52–20:22	67–38.5	38–25.8	1693–1817	1750–1000–500–200	17,516, 13,910, 8243
	9 Jan.	21:13–23:05	67–31.6	38–26.0	1793	200–100–50–0	12,879, 9273, 9788
05-L12	12 Jan.	14:10–15:43	67–18.3	40–54.2	3490–3681	2000–1000–500–200	18,548, 10,819, 7728
	12 Jan.	16:19–17:54	67–12.0	40–54.4	3567	200–100–50–0	9273, 10,819, 9788
05-L9	13 Jan.	05:48–07:17	66–33.9	41–00.2	4152–4268	2000–1000–500–200	18,031, 11,849, 10,303
	13 Jan.	07:50–09:38	66–28.0	41–00.3	4152–4181	200–100–50–0	10,819, 9273, 9273
2006							
06-L4	12 Jan.	14:30–16:05	66–09.7	36–10.3	4495–4639	200–100–50–0	9273, 8758, 8243
	12 Jan.	18:10–19:37	66–05.0	36–09.2	4313–4404	2000–1000–500–200	7212, 10,819, 18,546
06-L1	13 Jan.	13:36–15:09	65–00.0	36–00.8	4334–4639	200–100–50–0	9273, 8758, 9273
	13 Jan.	16:56–18:29	64–59.6	36–01.0	4634–4647	2000–1000–500–200	8243, 12,364, 15,970
06-L5	14 Jan.	09:54–12:28	65–00.3	38–01.8	4858–4860	200–100–50–0	9273, 9788, 10,303
	14 Jan.	14:22–16:16	65–00.4	38–08.6	4860–4869	2000–1000–500–200	10,303, 13,395, 19,061
06-L8	15 Jan.	12:58–14:31	66–50.8	37–48.8	4504	200–100–50–0	9788, 9273, 10,819
	15 Jan.	16:10–17:40	66–47.9	37–36.7	4347–4443	2000–1000–500–200	8758, 11,849, 17,516
06-L12	17 Jan.	13:10–14:10	65–58.9	40–59.3	4230–4321	200–100–50–0	104,303, 11,334, 11,849
	17 Jan.	16:49–18:17	66–07.7	41–06.3	3913–4217	2000–1000–500–200	13,910, 22,668, 10,303

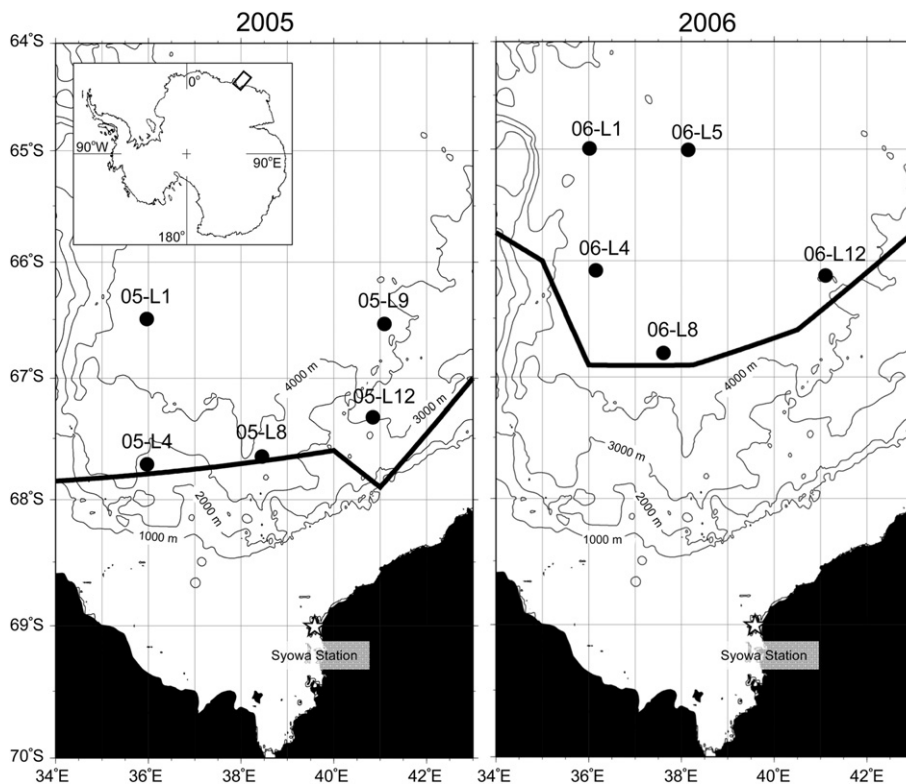


Fig. 1. Sampling stations off Lützwahl-Holm Bay, Indian sector, in 2005 and 2006. The thick line denotes the pack-ice edge estimated roughly from SeaWiFS satellite images.

to 200 m depth (200–500–1000–2000 m) (Table 1), although the maximum depth at stations 05-L1 and 05-L8 was 1800 and 1750 m, respectively. The protocols used for net towing and for calculating the filtered water volume are described in Moteki et al. (2009). This study did not design a net sampling program to collect gelatinous species. This study examined only the samples from RMT-8 (8-m³ nominal mouth opening with 4.5-mm mesh). The samples were fixed in 5% buffered formaldehyde seawater solution onboard.

2.2. Hydrographic observations

Salinity and temperature data were collected at each sampling station before the RMT tow using a conductivity/temperature/depth (CTD) profiler (Sea-Bird Electronics, SBE911), except in the upper 200 m in 2006, which was not sampled because the instrument was not working properly in the epipelagic layer that year. Therefore, CTD data from another profiler (Falmouth Scientific, Inc., ICTD) were used for our analysis at 0–200 m depths for 2006. Both CTD instruments were calibrated, although the degree of accuracy was lower for the ICTD. The terminology of

the water masses follows Bindoff et al. (2000) and Tomczak and Liefink (2005).

2.3. Sample analysis

The zooplankton were divided into the following 11 taxa: Salpidae, Medusae, Siphonophorae, Polychaeta, Chaetognatha, Euphausiacea, Amphipoda, Decapoda, Copepoda, Ostracoda, and Pteropoda; the number of individuals and wet weight to the nearest 0.01 g were determined for each taxon. Before wet weight was determined with an electric balance, samples were filtered using a vacuum pump and then a filter paper dewatering process was repeated several times until the filter paper was not wet. For fragile gelatinous plankton, water was removed on a Petri dish with filter paper or a paper towel until water did not leach out. The conversion factors from wet weight to carbon weight used in this study followed those in Davis and Wiebe (1985). Pelagic cnidarians (Medusae and Siphonophorae) were identified to the lowest possible taxon. Abundances are shown as the number per 1000 m³ water.

Pelagic cnidarians were identified and counted under a binocular dissecting microscope. The numbers

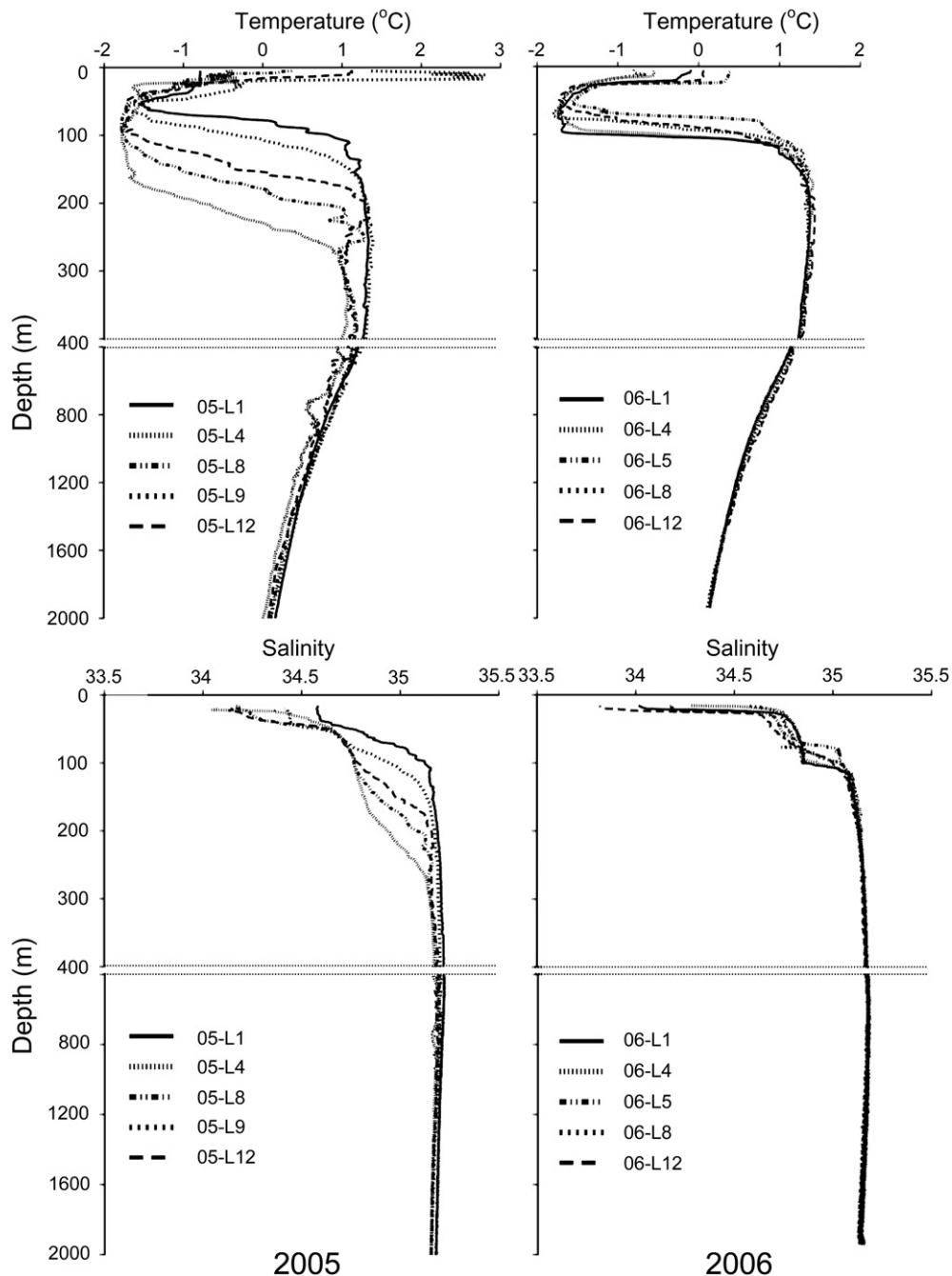


Fig. 2. Vertical profiles of water temperature (top) and salinity (bottom) off Lützow–Holm Bay, Indian sector, in 2005 and 2006. For the station names, see Fig. 1 and Table 1.

of physonects and calycophoran *Vogtia serrata* colonies were roughly estimated by assuming that ten nectophores represented a single colony, according to Pagès et al. (1996) and Hosia et al. (2008). Therefore, any number of nectophores from 1 to 10 was assumed to represent one animal. These estimates were used for the cluster analysis as the number of individual

colonies. For the calycophoran siphonophore *Rosacea plicata*, the number of individuals (colonies) was estimated for two nectophores. For the remaining siphonophores, the number of anterior nectophores was used to estimate the number of colonies. The scientific names follow Kramp (1968) and Pugh (1999). Identifications were made following Kramp (1957, 1959,

1968) and Bouillon (1999) for Medusae, and Pugh (1999) and Bouillon et al. (2004) for Siphonophorae. For the genus *Rosacea* of Siphonophorae, we followed Haddock et al. (2005).

Chlorophyll *a* (Chl-*a*) concentrations were determined by the fluorometric method (Strickland and Parsons, 1972) using a Turner Design Model 10-AU fluorometer calibrated with commercial Chl-*a* (Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Osaka, Japan) and a Welshmayer filter set according to the method of Parsons et al. (1984). Seawater samples were collected at almost the same time as the CTD cast, from 12 depths above 200 m using a Niskin bottle. Chl-*a* was immediately extracted by immersing the filter in *N*, *N*-dimethylformamide (Suzuki and Ishimaru, 1990), and the samples were preserved at -4°C until analysis. Photosynthetic pigments on the filter were extracted with 6 ml *N*, *N*-dimethylformamide for 1 day at -20°C .

2.4. Data analysis

The Bray–Curtis dissimilarity index was used to compare cnidarian species composition with respect to station and depth (Field et al., 1982). Abundances were $\log_{10}(n+1)$ -transformed to decrease the importance of dominant species. Samples for which fewer than five specimens were caught were excluded from this analysis. Unweighted-pairs group linkage and non-metric multidimensional scaling (nMDS) were performed based on similarity. The SIMPER (similarity percentage) routine identified the species contributing to similarity within the observed clusters. These statistical analyses were conducted using the software package PRIMER v6 (PRIMER-E; Clarke and Gorley, 2006).

3. Results

3.1. Hydrography and primary production

In 2005, winter water (WW) at a temperature of less than -1.5°C was observed at about 30–180 m (Fig. 2). The depth of the permanent thermocline varied among stations. The depths of 0°C water ranged from 78 to 230 m, being deeper for the stations near the ice edge (Stns. 05-L4, -L8). Below the WW was modified circumpolar deep water (MCDW) with a maximum temperature of about 1.3°C . The WW was covered by warm summer surface water (SSW). In 2006, the basic structure was similar to that in 2005, although the depth range of WW was narrower than that in 2005, with the depths of 0°C water ranging from 76 to 105 m.

The epipelagic layer had a lower Chl-*a* concentration in 2006; the mean \pm SD of the cumulative Chl-*a* concentration (0–200 m depth) was 5.86 ± 2.27 vs. $1.38 \pm 0.28 \mu\text{g L}^{-1}$ in 2005 and 2006, respectively.

3.2. Zooplankton vertical distribution

The carbon biomass of the total macrozooplankton and the assemblages of the major taxa are shown in Fig. 3. The cumulative biomass (0–2000 m) in 2006 was very small compared to that in 2005 (5702 vs. 17,797 mgC).

In 2005, greater biomass percentages were observed in the 0–50 and 100–200 m layers (mean \pm SD: 1520 ± 855 and 1012 ± 434 mgC, respectively), in which Euphausiacea (41.3%) and Medusae (53.5%) were dominant, respectively (Fig. 3). Medusae were observed in all layers, constituting 5.0–57.1% of the biomass, and especially dominated the 100–500 m layers. Siphonophores were also found in all layers and constituted a greater percentage in the 0–100 m layers.

In 2006, the greatest biomass was recorded at 0–50 m (866 ± 1685 mg), where Euphausiacea dominated (88.1% of the total carbon biomass; Figs. 3, 4). The biomass at 200–500 m exhibited another small peak, excluding Euphausiacea. Unlike in 2005, copepods occupied a greater biomass percentage in all layers except for 0–50 m (40.8–84.5% in 50–2000 m; pteropods dominated at 0–50 m, 59.4%). Siphonophores were found in all layers (Figs. 3, 4), but were mainly distributed in the upper 500 m (2.3–3.0% in 0–200 m). Medusae were found at higher percentages at 200–500 and 1000–2000 m, constituting 27.3% and 7.7% of the total carbon biomass, respectively.

In 2006, Medusae, Siphonophorae, Copepoda, and Salpida had a peak in abundance and biomass at 200–500 m depth, whereas these animals were mainly distributed in the upper 200 m layers in 2005 (Fig. 4). Euphausiacea was distributed mainly in the upper 50 m, although they were found in the 50–500 m layers in 2005. The carbon biomass of Medusae from the 0 to 50 m, 100–200 m, and 200–500 m layers was very high in 2005 compared to 2006, due to the occurrence of a large number of *Peryphylla peryphylla* (Fig. 4).

3.3. Overview of the cnidarian community

In 2005 and 2006, 31 and 20 species were recorded, respectively (Tables 2 and 3). In 2006, the total abundance was very small compared to that in 2005 (77.1 vs. 390.8 individuals/1000 m^3 ; Tables 2 and 3).

In all, 28 species (taxa) of hydrozoans and 3 species of scyphozoans were identified (Tables 2 and 3). Within the

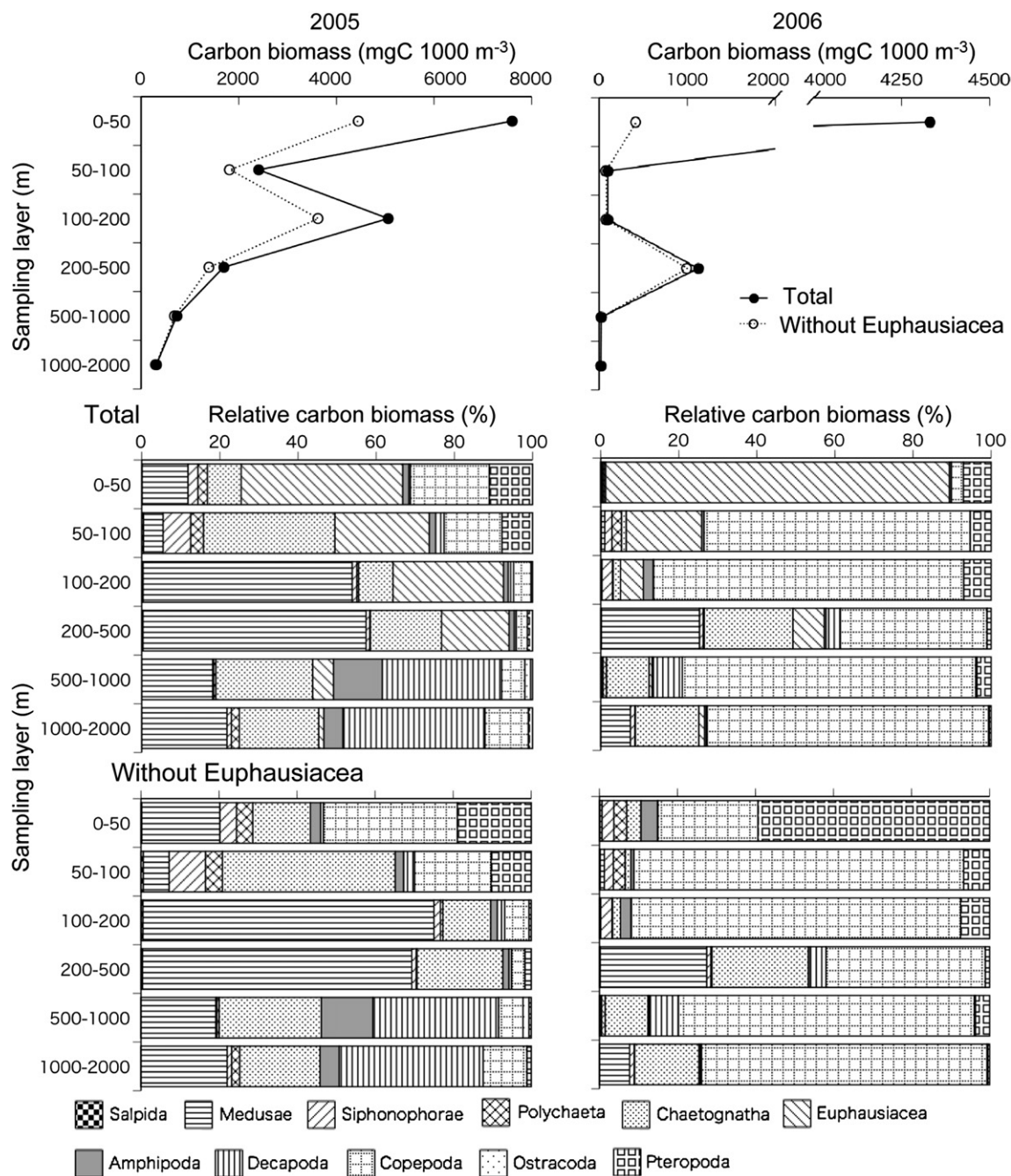


Fig. 3. Vertical distributions of total carbon biomass (top) and the relative abundance of major mesozooplankton taxa (middle, total biomass; bottom, without Euphausiacea) off Lützow–Holm Bay, Indian sector, in 2005 and 2006.

Hydrozoa, the greatest number of species (12) were from the order Siphonophorae, followed by Anthomedusae (5), Trachymedusae (5), Leptomedusae (3), and Narcomedusae (3). Two suborders of siphonophore were identified: Physonectae (2 species) and Calycophorae (10).

In 2005, 31 (20–24 species per station) species were identified at the five stations versus 20 (12–16

per station) in 2006 (Tables 2 and 3). Leptomedusae and Semaestomeae did not occur in 2006, whereas two and one species, respectively, occurred in 2005. Only one species of anthomedusan was observed in 2006, whereas six species occurred in 2005.

In 2005, *Diphyes antarctica* (Calycophorae) was the most dominant species, contributing 27.9% of the total

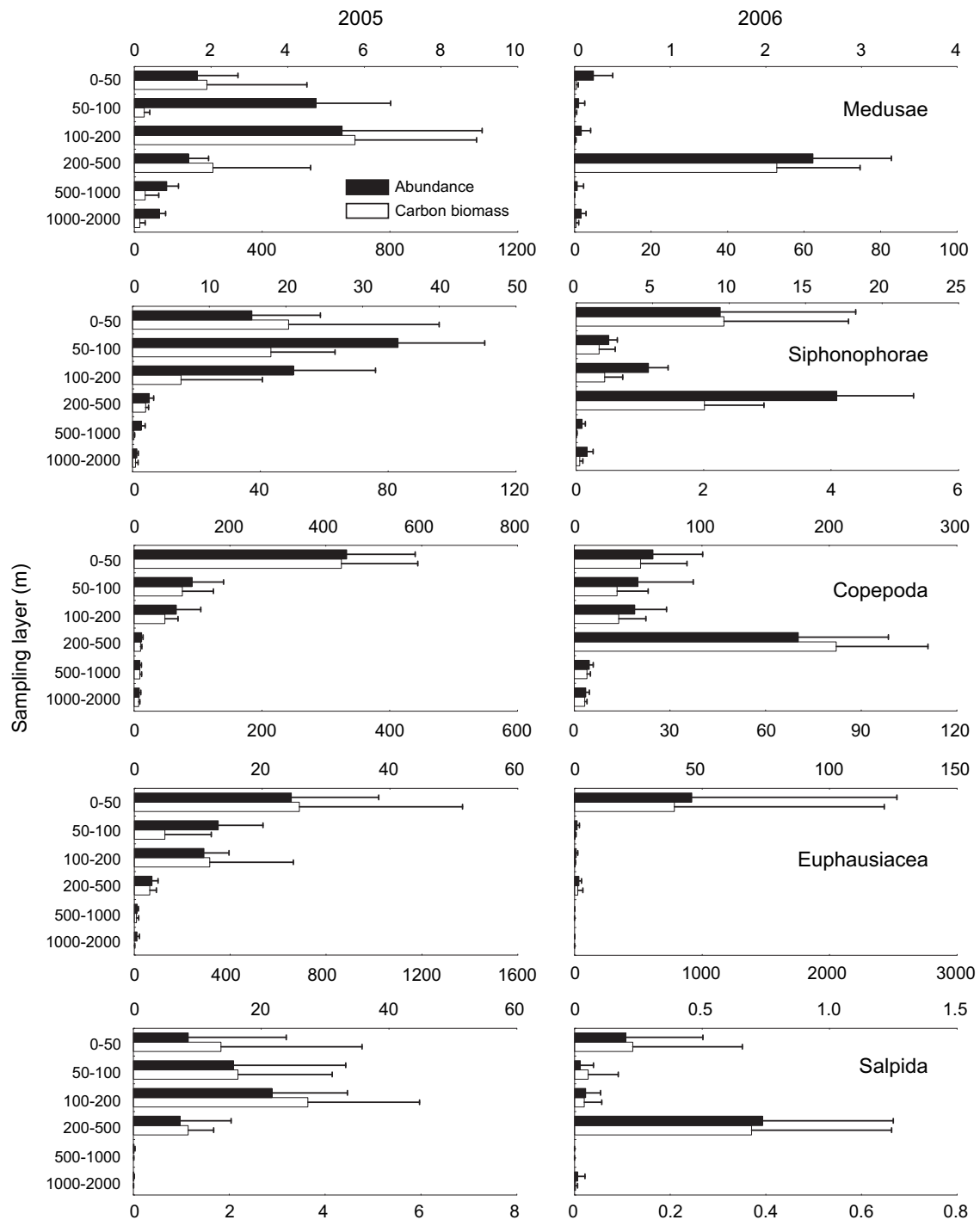


Fig. 4. Abundance (top horizontal axis; $n/1000\text{ m}^3$) and carbon biomass (bottom axis; $\text{mgC}/1000\text{ m}^3$) of Medusae, Siphonophorae, Copepoda, Euphausiacea, and Salpida off Lützow–Holm Bay, Indian sector, in 2005 and 2006.

cnidarian abundance, followed by the siphonophores *Dimophyes arctica* (Calycophorae, 20.2%), *Muggiaea bargmannae* (Calycophorae, 18.3%), and *Pyrostephos vanhoeffeni* (Physophora, 9.9%) (Table 2).

Siphonophorae contributed 82.2% of the total abundance. The abundance of Trachymedusae followed that of siphonophores and was 8.3% of the total. *Halicsera conica* constituted 80.5% of the total

Table 2

List, abundance ($n/1000\text{ m}^3$), and number of species of cnidarians collected off Lützow–Holm Bay, Indian sector, in 2005.

Station (total no. of species at each station)	05-L1 (24)						05-L4 (22)						05-L8 (21)					
	0–50	50–100	100–200	200–500	500–1000	1000–1800	0–50	50–100	100–200	200–500	500–1000	1000–2000	0–50	50–100	100–200	200–500	500–1000	1000–1750
Hydrozoa																		
Anthomedusae																		
<i>Calyropsis borchgrevinki</i> Browne, 1910	0.65	2.54		0.18	0.07			3.33	1.49	0.23	0.06		2.04	2.91	0.78			0.06
<i>Russellia mirabilis</i> Kramp, 1957			0.14						0.15									
<i>Koellikerina maasi</i> Browne, 1910										0.16								
<i>Euphysora</i> sp.													0.10					
? <i>Bythotia</i> sp.													0.10	0.11	0.16			
Anthomedusae sp.																		
Trachymedusae																		
<i>Haliiscera conica</i> Vanhöffen, 1902		1.49	1.53	0.74	0.22	0.22	0.14	0.28	0.60	1.48	0.12			1.08	9.08	0.61	0.22	0.11
<i>Halicreas minimum</i> Fewkes, 1882				0.14	0.30					0.06	0.46					0.07	0.06	
<i>Botrynema brucei</i> Browne, 1908				0.07	0.37					0.06	0.15						0.17	
<i>Pantachogon haeckeli</i> Maas, 1893			0.18	0.36	0.07					0.36	0.15					0.29	0.06	
<i>Crossota brunnea</i> Vanhöffen, 1902				0.22	0.07				0.08	0.06								
Narcomedusae																		
<i>Pegantha martagon</i> Haeckel, 1879	0.32	0.30	0.55	0.09			0.28	0.28	0.15				0.10	0.11				
<i>Aegina citrea</i> Eschscholtz, 1829										0.08								
<i>Solmissus incisa</i> Fewkes, 1886				0.46							0.55			0.11				
Leptomedusae																		
<i>Chromatonema rubrum</i> Fewkes, 1882																		
Leptomedusae sp.													0.10					0.06
Siphonophora																		
Physonectae																		
<i>Pyrostephos vanhoeffeni</i> Moser, 1925	0.32						24.54	0.42	0.45	0.23	0.06	0.26	5.72	0.11	0.31	0.24	0.07	0.06
<i>Marrus antarcticus</i> Totton, 1954					0.07					0.08								
Calycephorae																		
<i>Diphyes antarctica</i> Moser, 1925	3.72	19.26	0.69	0.92			3.19	4.30	26.73	0.70			8.38	2.60	2.72	0.49	0.72	
<i>Dimophyes arctica</i> (Chun, 1897)	0.49	7.32	7.21	0.92		0.75	1.19	11.92	8.67	0.47		0.12	1.12	9.60	8.39	0.12	0.72	0.58
<i>Muggiaea bargmannae</i> Totton, 1954	1.13	14.36	1.68	0.18		0.15	0.83	4.71	1.49	0.39	0.12	0.24	0.52	5.68	11.41	0.12		0.11
<i>Vogtia serrata</i> (Moser, 1925)			0.14	0.92						0.62	0.18				0.08	0.97	0.07	
<i>Crystalliphyes amygdalina</i> Moser, 1925				0.37	0.14	0.75						0.52				0.24	0.72	0.58
<i>Clausophyes moserae</i> Margulis, 1988					0.72	0.75												
<i>Chuniphyes moserae</i> Totton, 1954						0.22												
<i>Lensia havock</i> Totton, 1941					0.29						0.12	0.12					0.22	0.11
<i>Lensia achilles</i> Totton, 1941				0.92	0.72	0.22				0.78	0.12	0.52				0.24	0.29	0.11
<i>Rosacea plicata</i> Quoy and Gaimard, 1827				0.09														
Scyphozoa																		
Coronatae																		
<i>Atolla wyvillei</i> Haeckel, 1880					0.07	0.07												0.06
<i>Periphylla periphylla</i> (Péron and Lesueur, 1809)			0.14	0.09	0.07	0.07	0.14		0.15	0.23	0.06		0.10					0.11
Semastostomeae																		
<i>Diplulmaris antarctica</i> Maas, 1908				0.09				0.14						0.10				
TOTALS																		
Total abundance	8.13	45.30	11.48	6.27	3.20	3.12	30.45	25.69	40.83	4.63	2.04	1.78	19.48	30.30	24.45	3.00	3.20	2.28
Total no. of individuals	41	301	152	35	35	27	218	183	267	61	23	30	180	372	423	25	20	21
Total no. species	7	6	9	17	13	9	7	8	10	16	11	6	12	9	8	10	11	11

Table 2 (continued)

Station (total no. of species at each station)	05-L9 (20)					05-L12 (23)					Total abundance				
	0–50	50–100	100–200	200–500	500–1000	1000–2000	0–50	50–100	100–200	200–500	500–1000	1000–2000			
<i>Hydrozoa</i>															
<i>Anthomedusae</i>															
<i>Calycopsis borchgrevinkii</i> Browne, 1910	0.54	4.96	0.28	0.19			2.35	2.40	0.22	0.26			25.54		
<i>Russelia mirabilis</i> Kramp, 1957										0.13			0.29		
<i>Koellikerina maasi</i> Browne, 1910													0.28		
<i>Euphysoa</i> sp.													0.10		
? <i>Bythotrephes</i> sp.													0.37		
<i>Anthomedusae</i> sp.											0.09		0.09		
<i>Trachymedusae</i>															
<i>Halicercia conica</i> Vanhöffen, 1902	0.43		2.03	0.39	0.17			0.92	3.34	0.91	0.09		26.19		
<i>Halicercas minimum</i> Fewkes, 1882					0.22					0.09	0.11		1.51		
<i>Boirymenia brucei</i> Browne, 1908			0.10	0.17	0.11						0.16		1.37		
<i>Pantachogon haackeli</i> Maas, 1893			0.19	0.51	0.11				0.26	0.28			2.83		
<i>Crossota brunnea</i> Vanhöffen, 1902					0.11					0.09			0.63		
<i>Narcomedusae</i>															
<i>Pegantia maritima</i> Haeckel, 1879	0.43	0.86	0.18	0.10			0.10	0.09	0.32	0.39			4.67		
<i>Aegina cirrea</i> Eschscholtz, 1829													0.08		
<i>Solmissus incisus</i> Fewkes, 1886		0.86									0.18		2.16		
<i>Leptomedusae</i>															
<i>Chromatonema rubrum</i> Fewkes, 1882						0.06				0.13			0.18		
<i>Leptomedusae</i> sp.													0.16		
<i>Siphonophora</i>															
<i>Physonectae</i>															
<i>Pyrosophos vanhoefeni</i> Moser, 1925	1.40	0.22	0.18		0.08		3.37	0.09	0.11	0.13		0.16	38.54		
<i>Marrus antarcticus</i> Totton, 1954													0.15		
<i>Calycophorae</i>															
<i>Diphyes antarctica</i> Moser, 1925	8.34	4.55	2.43	0.39	0.17		1.73	15.86	1.19	0.26			109.15		
<i>Dinophyes arctica</i> (Chun, 1897)		2.59	2.96	0.29	0.12		0.24	8.41	3.88	0.52		0.18	78.95		
<i>Muggiaea bargmannae</i> Totton, 1954	0.86	6.39	13.40	0.98	0.55			2.68	2.48	0.39		0.54	71.42		
<i>Vogelia serrata</i> (Moser, 1925)	0.11		0.65	0.58	0.08		0.20	0.09	0.22	0.91	0.18	0.05	6.06		
<i>Crystallophyes anygdalina</i> Moser, 1925				0.68						0.26		0.54	4.80		
<i>Clausophyes moserae</i> Margulis, 1988					0.84					0.13	0.92	0.54	3.90		
<i>Chuniphyes moserae</i> Totton, 1954													0.22		
<i>Lensia havock</i> Totton, 1941					0.60					0.13	0.65		2.23		
<i>Lensia achilles</i> Totton, 1941					0.56						0.74	0.18	5.54		
<i>Rosacea plicata</i> Quoy and Gaimard, 1827										0.13			0.22		
<i>Scyphozoa</i>															
<i>Coronatae</i>															
<i>Atolla wyvillei</i> Haeckel, 1880				0.19	0.17	0.11						0.22	0.89		
<i>Periphylla periphylla</i> (Péron and Lesueur, 1809)			0.09	0.10	0.08	0.06			0.11	0.26			1.87		
<i>Semacostomeae</i>															
<i>Diplimnaris antarctica</i> Maas, 1908													0.33		
Total abundance	11.68	22.47	20.85	4.34	3.15	1.02	8.92	32.98	9.69	4.57	3.04	2.41	390.75		
Total no. of individuals	112	512	238	34	30	19	166	325	109	39	25	19	4042		
Total no. species	6	8	11	12	12	6	7	8	10	18	8	8	31		

Table 3

List, abundance ($n/1000 \text{ m}^3$), and number of species of cnidarians collected off Lützow–Holm Bay, Indian sector, in 2006.

Station (total no. of species at each station)	06-L1 (12)						06-L4 (12)						06-L5 (14)					
Sampling depth (m)	0-50	50-100	100-200	200-500	500-1000	1000-2000	0-50	50-100	100-200	200-500	500-1000	1000-2000	0-50	50-100	100-200	200-500	500-1000	1000-2000
Hydrozoa																		
Anthomedusae																		
<i>Calycopsis borchgrevinki</i> Browne, 1910	0.22			0.19			0.24			0.05						0.26		
Trachymedusae																		
<i>Halicercia conica</i> Vanhöffen, 1902	0.11			1.06			0.12			0.11						0.21		
<i>Halicercas minimum</i> Fewkes, 1882																		
<i>Botrynema brucei</i> Browne, 1908																		
<i>Pantachogon haeckeli</i> Maas, 1893				0.06												0.10		
Narcomedusae																		
<i>Pegantia martagon</i> Haeckel, 1879	0.11															0.05		
<i>Aegina citrea</i> Eschscholtz, 1829				0.06														
<i>Solmissus incisa</i> Fewkes, 1886				0.13					0.16							0.21		
Siphonophora																		
Physonectae																		
<i>Pyrostephos vanhoeffeni</i> Moser, 1925	0.32						1.58											
<i>Marrus antarcticus</i> Totton, 1954																		
Calycephorae																		
<i>Diphyes antarctica</i> Moser, 1925	1.08	0.11	0.43	0.19			2.30	0.80	0.11					0.31	0.32	0.16		
<i>Dimiphyes arctica</i> (Chun, 1897)	0.11		0.54		0.08	0.24	0.36	0.23	0.32	0.05	0.09			0.10	1.73	0.16	0.22	0.10
<i>Muggiaea bargmannae</i> Totton, 1954	0.32	0.80	2.70	0.31		0.24	0.12	0.34	1.62	0.49		0.42	0.19	1.02	2.37	0.16		0.97
<i>Vogtia serrata</i> (Moser, 1925)	0.11			0.94		0.12				0.27	0.09					0.63		
<i>Crystalliphyes amygdalina</i> Moser, 1925				0.13						0.05						0.37	0.15	0.10
<i>Lensia havock</i> Totton, 1941					0.08													
<i>Lensia achilles</i> Totton, 1941																		0.10
<i>Rosacea plicata</i> Quoy and Gaimard, 1827									0.05							0.10		
Scyphozoa																		
Coronatae																		
<i>Atolla wyvillei</i> Haeckel, 1880				0.25						0.05						0.05		
<i>Periphylla periphylla</i> (Péron and Lesueur, 1809)										0.16						0.10		
Total abundance ($n/1000 \text{ m}^3$)	2.37	0.91	3.67	3.32	0.16	0.61	4.73	1.37	2.05	1.46	0.18	0.42	0.19	1.43	4.42	2.57	0.37	1.26
Total no. of individuals	21	8	34	53	2	5	39	12	19	27	2	3	2	14	41	49	5	13
Total no. of species	8	2	3	10	2	3	6	3	3	10	2	1	1	3	3	13	2	4

Table 3 (continued)

Station (total no. of species at each station)		06-L8 (16)						06-L12 (15)						Total abundance
Sampling depth (m)		0-	50-	100-	200-	500-	1000-	0-	50-	100-	200-	500-	1000-	
		50	100	200	500	1000	2000	50	100	200	500	1000	2000	
Hydrozoa														
Anthomedusae														
	<i>Calycpsis borchgrevinki</i> Browne, 1910		0.11	0.10	0.23			0.17		0.10	0.04			1.71
Trachymedusae														
	<i>Haliscera conica</i> Vanhöffen, 1902				0.40					0.09				2.10
	<i>Haliceas minimum</i> Fewkes, 1882									0.04				0.04
	<i>Botrynema brucei</i> Browne, 1908						0.23			0.04	0.07	0.13		0.47
	<i>Pantachogon haeckeli</i> Maas, 1893				0.06						0.07			0.30
Narcomedusae														
	<i>Pegantia martagon</i> Haeckel, 1879				0.06									0.22
	<i>Aegina citrea</i> Eschscholtz, 1829													0.06
	<i>Solmissus incisa</i> Fewkes, 1886				0.17					0.31				0.98
Siphonophora														
Physonectae														
	<i>Pyrostephos vanhoeffeni</i> Moser, 1925		0.55							0.18				2.63
	<i>Marrus antarcticus</i> Totton, 1954				0.11							0.13		0.24
Calycephorae														
	<i>Diphyes antarctica</i> Moser, 1925	1.57	0.11	0.31	0.06			0.68	0.26	0.29	0.04			9.26
	<i>Dimophyes arctica</i> (Chun, 1897)	0.09		2.25				0.17	0.35	1.26	0.22	0.07		8.75
	<i>Muggiaea bargmannae</i> Totton, 1954	0.18	1.08	2.55				0.08	1.15	2.23	0.13			19.62
	<i>Vogtia serrata</i> (Moser, 1925)	0.09			0.57			0.08			0.26			3.30
	<i>Crystallophyes amygdalina</i> Moser, 1925				0.34					0.09		0.13		1.35
	<i>Lensia havock</i> Totton, 1941						0.11			0.09				0.28
	<i>Lensia achilles</i> Totton, 1941													0.10
	<i>Rosacea plicata</i> Quoy and Gaimard, 1827				0.11					0.04				0.32
Scyphozoa														
Coronatae														
	<i>Atolla wyvillei</i> Haeckel, 1880				0.06									0.41
	<i>Periphylla periphylla</i> (Péron and Lesueur, 1809)													0.27

Total abundance (<i>n</i> /1000 m ³)		2.50	1.29	5.21	2.17	0	0.34	1.18	1.76	3.88	1.59	0.22	0.78	52.42
Total no. of individuals		26	12	51	37	0	3	14	20	40	35	3	6	596
Total no. of species		5	3	4	11	0	2	5	3	4	13	3	6	20

trachymedusan abundance. Anthomedusae was the third dominant taxa (order), of which 96% was *Calyropsis borchgrevinki*.

In 2006, *M. bargmannae* was most dominant, with 25.4% abundance, followed by the siphonophores *D. arctica* (16.8%), *V. serrata* (12.4%), and *D. antarctica* (12.2%; Table 3). Siphonophores contributed 79.4% of the abundance.

3.4. Cluster analysis

Hierarchical clustering based on the Bray–Curtis similarities of the community at all sampling depth layers in both years revealed five groups (A–E) and two outliers (F, G) at 35% similarity (Fig. 5). The nMDS plots showed a clear dissociation among three major groups: the epipelagic groups (B and C), upper mesopelagic group (A), and lower mesopelagic and bathypelagic groups (D and E; Figs. 5, 6). Group C partly existed in the bathypelagic layer (Stns. 06–L5).

Group B contained all of the 0–200 m samples in 2005 and the 0–50 m samples for stations 06–L4 and –L8 in 2006 (Fig. 6). Group B had the largest average abundance (24.43), but only the third highest average species richness (7.5; Table 4). The species contributing most to the similarity within this group were *D. antarctica*, *M. bargmannae*, *D. arctica*, *C. borchgrevinki*, and *P. vanhoeffeni*, which contributed 91.2% of the similarity (Table 5). Of these species, *D. antarctica* contributed 38.0%. A higher value of $Si/SD(Si)$ in Table 5 indicates that species *i* occurred more consistently in all samples within a group (Clarke and Warwick, 2001). This value was higher for *D. antarctica* (3.76; Table 5). Group C represented part of the epipelagic community together with group B (Figs. 5, 6), which consisted of the 0–200 m samples for all stations in 2006 except for the 0–50 m samples for stations 06–L4 and –L8 (Fig. 5). However, this group was also found in the bathypelagic layer at 06–L5, although the individual numbers were very small (13 individuals; Table 3). Group C had somewhat low average abundance (2.23) and average species richness (3.8; Table 4). The species in group C were similar to those in group B, excluding *C. borchgrevinki* and *P. vanhoeffeni*. Only three species contributed 98.7% of the similarity, although *M. bargmannae* had a higher value of $Si/SD(i)$, indicating that this species was distributed more consistently in the samples (Table 5). Group A contained the 200–500 m samples in both years and exhibited the highest diversity in terms of total species number and average species richness, 25

and 12.0, respectively (Table 4, Fig. 5). However, the average abundance was very small compared to group B (4.36; Table 4). The species in this group were *V. serrata*, *H. conica*, and *Crystallophytes amygdalina*, which contributed 57.7% of the similarity (Table 5). The first two species were more common in the samples, indicated by the highest $Si/SD(Si)$ values. Group D was found only in 500–2000 m samples in 2005 (Fig. 6), and consisted of 11 species, the main ones being *Lensia achilles*, *Pantachogon haeckeli*, *Lensia havock*, and *H. conica*. However, their contribution percentages and $Si/SD(Si)$ values were low (Table 5). Group D had the second highest average species richness (11.1; the total was 22) after group A, although the average abundance was low (1.72; Table 4). Group E was composed of only two samples from the meso- and bathypelagic layers in 2006, with five individuals in both samples (Table 5).

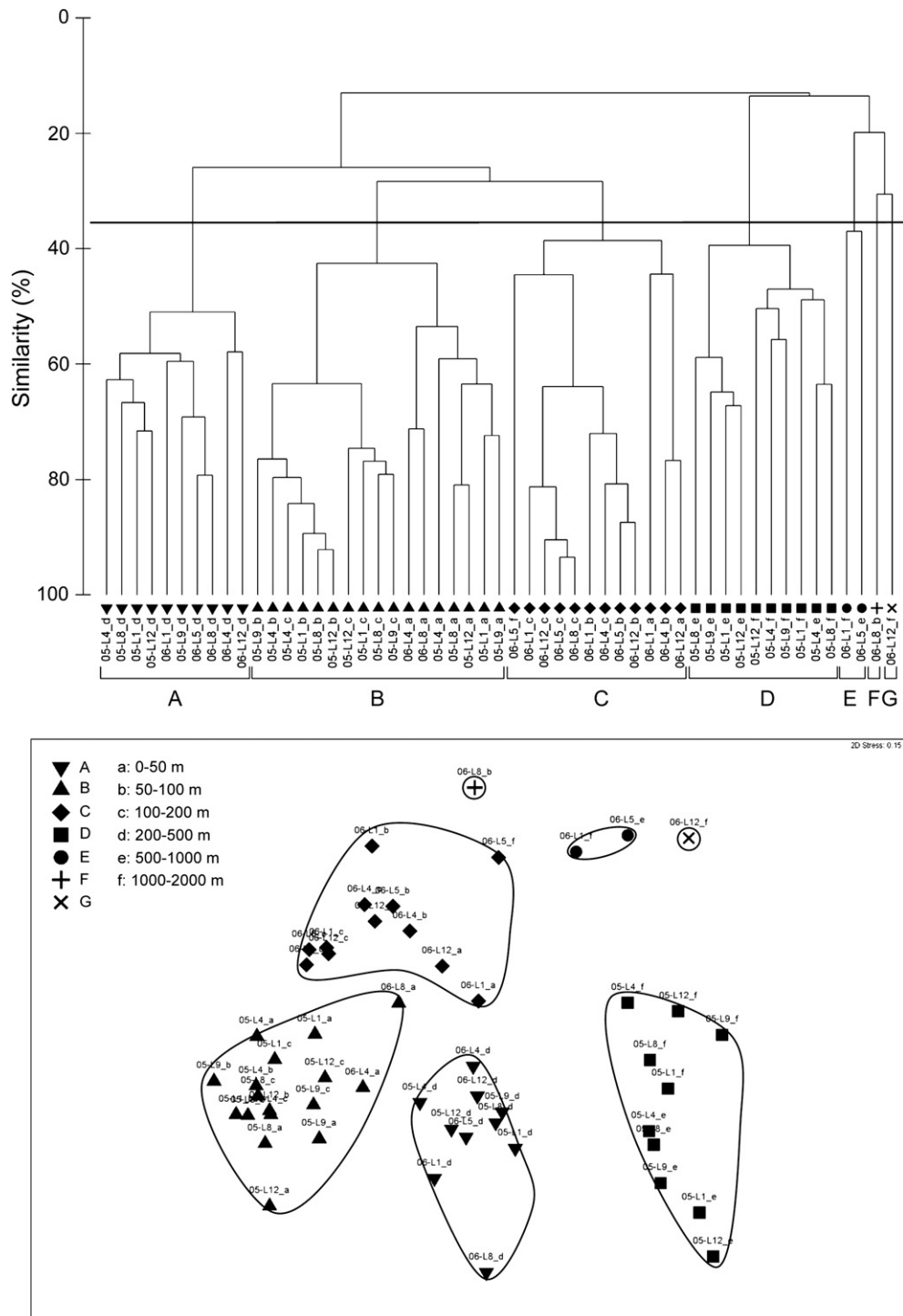
Average temperature–salinity (T–S) plots for each group are shown in Fig. 7. Cnidarians belonging to groups B and C were in the SSW, WW, and upper MCDW of the epipelagic layer. Group A was found only in the warm, high-salinity, upper MCDW. Groups D and E were distributed only in the lower MCDW. Samples in which fewer than five individuals were caught were observed mostly in the lower MCDW and only in 2006.

4. Discussion

4.1. New geographic records for East Antarctica

Many recent studies have examined the cnidarian communities of the Southern Ocean, although mostly in West Antarctica (Pagès and Kurbjewit, 1994; Pagès and Schnack-Schiel, 1996; Pagès et al., 1996; Pugh et al., 1997). Pagès et al. (1994) studied the eastern part of the Weddell Gyre in East Antarctica. Therefore, our study is the second intensive study of the cnidarian communities from the epi- to bathypelagic zone in East Antarctica, although several taxonomic studies have reported the distributions of some cnidarian species in East Antarctica (Totton, 1954; Kramp, 1968; Larson, 1986).

Of the 31 species that we collected in Lützow–Holm Bay, at least four were first records for East Antarctica: *Koellikerina maasi*, *Russellia mirabilis*, *Pegantha martagon*, and *Solmissus incisa*. *K. maasi* is known from the Weddell and Ross seas (Kramp, 1957; Larson and Harbison, 1990), and Kramp (1957, 1961) recorded *R. mirabilis* and *P. martagon* from the Atlantic sector, although several



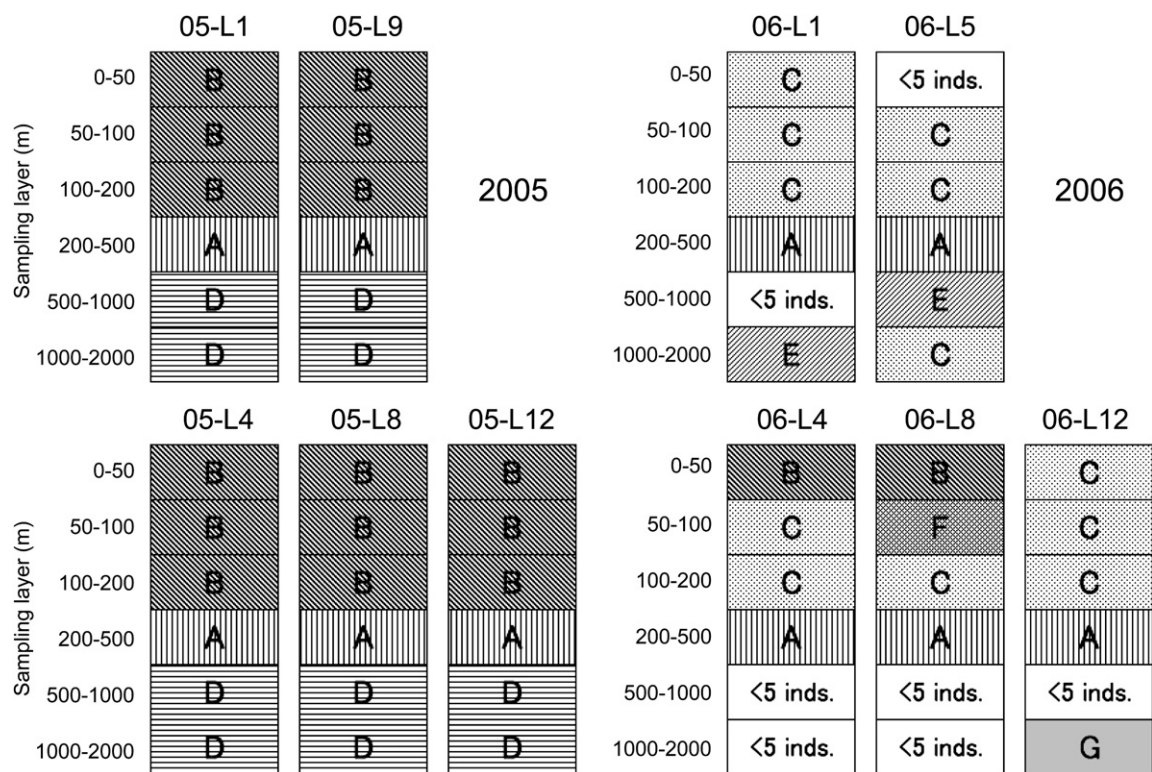


Fig. 6. Schematic of the cnidarian community structure off Lützow–Holm Bay, Indian sector, in 2005 and 2006. Capital letters denote the group name identified by the hierarchical clustering in Fig. 5.

comprehensive studies of the cnidarian community did not mention these species for East Antarctica.

We identified *S. incisa* in both years, and these constitute the first records for the species south of the Antarctic Polar Front. *S. incisa* is a mesopelagic species distributed from 45°S to 60°N in the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific oceans (Kramp, 1965; Lindsay and Hunt, 2005; Hosia et al., 2008). We found this species mainly at 200–500 m, although it was distributed widely from 50 to 1000 m.

Table 4

Characteristics of each group identified by the hierarchical clustering.

Group	No. of samples	Average individual no.	Average abundance ^a	Average species richness	Total no. species
A	10	40.0	4.36	12.0	25
B	17	215.8	24.43	7.5	14
C	12	23.3	2.23	3.8	10
D	10	25.1	1.72	11.1	22
E	2	5.0	0.34	2.5	3
F	1	12.0	0.32	2.0	3
G	1	6.0	0.26	6.0	6

^a Abundance, $n/1000\text{ m}^3$.

4.2. Vertical distribution

Cnidarians undertake diel vertical migration (DVM; Pugh, 1984; Pagès et al., 1996; Youngbluth and Båmstedt, 2001), although we did not examine DVM in this study because the true night was very short in both years during the research period, 0–156 and 157–235 min in 2005 and 2006, respectively. Moreover, we conducted all samplings during daylight, although the samplings at stations 05-L4 and 05-L8 were partly conducted under the midnight sun. Furthermore, the sample sizes were too small to examine DVM. However, DVM has been observed in salps in a study conducted close to the midnight sun period in the Indian sector (Nishikawa and Tsuda, 2001). A detailed study of DVM by zooplankton is necessary to understand the pelagic ecosystem in the High-Antarctic Zone.

Pagès and Schnack-Schiel (1996) reported low abundance and species richness in the upper cold water (above the permanent thermocline), whereas we observed the highest abundance in the epipelagic layer (group B), where cold WW exists, as well as SSW. The permanent thermocline is considered an important

Table 5

Average abundance, similarity (Si), and related values within a cluster (SIMPER analysis).

Species	Contri.%	Cum.%	Av.Si	Si/SD(Si)	Av. abund. (inds 10 ⁻³ m ³)
Group A (Av. similarity: 57.6)					
<i>Vogtia serrata</i>	28.9	28.87	16.6	5.44	0.96
<i>Haliscera conica</i>	19.1	47.96	11.0	2.55	0.79
<i>Crystallophyes amygdalina</i>	9.8	57.72	5.6	1.40	0.36
<i>Muggiaea bargmannae</i>	8.0	65.69	4.6	1.40	0.37
<i>Diphyes antarctica</i>	7.1	72.81	4.1	1.25	0.28
<i>Calycopsis borchgrevinki</i>	6.9	79.73	4.0	1.64	0.24
<i>Dimophyes arctica</i>	5.6	85.28	3.2	1.01	0.26
<i>Periphylla periphylla</i>	3.1	88.37	1.8	0.86	0.14
<i>Solmissus incisa</i>	3.0	91.34	1.7	0.51	0.23
Group B (54.6)					
<i>Diphyes antarctica</i>	38.0	38.0	20.8	2.40	10.15
<i>Dimophyes arctica</i>	18.6	56.6	10.1	1.19	4.35
<i>Muggiaea bargmannae</i>	17.9	74.5	9.8	1.26	4.48
<i>Calycopsis borchgrevinki</i>	9.4	84.0	5.2	1.00	1.45
<i>Pyrostephos vanhoeffeni</i>	7.2	91.2	4.0	0.69	2.32
Group C (54.1)					
<i>Muggiaea bargmannae</i>	61.5	61.5	33.2	1.89	1.25
<i>Diphyes antarctica</i>	19.0	80.5	10.3	1.26	0.31
<i>Dimophyes arctica</i>	18.2	98.7	9.9	1.23	0.55
Group D (45.8)					
<i>Lensia achilles</i>	15.3	15.3	7.0	1.20	0.29
<i>Pantachogon haeckeli</i>	15.0	30.3	6.8	1.24	0.22
<i>Lensia havock</i>	11.8	42.1	5.4	1.08	0.22
<i>Halicroas minimum</i>	10.9	53.0	5.0	1.27	0.15
<i>Botrynema brucei</i>	9.6	62.6	4.4	1.03	0.13
<i>Haliscera conica</i>	7.5	70.1	3.4	0.86	0.12
<i>Dimophyes arctica</i>	5.6	75.7	2.6	0.85	0.07
<i>Muggiaea bargmannae</i>	4.4	80.1	2.0	0.65	0.07
<i>Pyrostephos vanhoeffeni</i>	3.7	83.8	1.7	0.62	0.07
<i>Atolla wyvillei</i>	3.7	87.5	1.7	0.62	0.07
<i>Periphylla periphylla</i>	2.9	90.4	1.3	0.69	0.05
Group E (37.0)					
<i>Dimophyes arctica</i>	100	100	37.0	—	0.17

Species list of each group is truncated when cumulative percentage of 90% is reached. Av.Si: average contribution of species *i* to the similarity within the cluster. SD(Si): standard deviation of Si, high Si/SD(Si) ratio indicates that a given species is typical to all stations in the cluster.

factor restricting the vertical distribution; some studies have observed greater abundance and species richness below the thermocline (Pagès and Kurbjeweit, 1994; Pagès and Schnack-Schiel, 1996). In 2006, the thermocline was located at 50–100 m depths, and most of the communities in the 50–200 m layers represented group C, which exhibited low abundance and species richness. Furthermore, the vertical community structure was uniform across stations in 2005, although the development of the WW varied geographically. These observations indicate that the vertical distribution of cnidarians is not only determined by the existence of WW or a thermocline. Other factors may affect

zooplankton prey or predators, as noted in Pagès and Kurbjeweit (1994) and Pugh (1991).

4.3. Differences in cnidarian community structure between 2005 and 2006

A community characterised by low abundance and a few species (group C) was identified mainly in the epipelagic layer and was also found at 1000–2000 m in 2006. Epipelagic group C was characterised by a negative factor, i.e., the absence of *C. borchgrevinki* and *P. vanhoeffeni* from the epipelagic community in 2005 (group B). Furthermore, bathypelagic group C

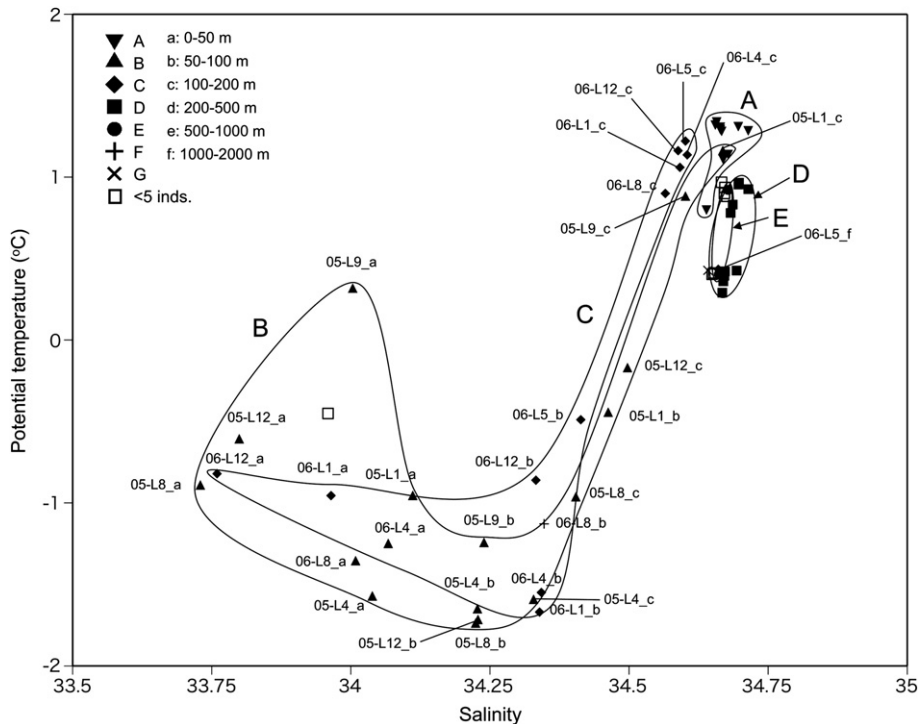


Fig. 7. Diagram of the average temperature and salinity at each sample. The station names and depth layer are indicated only for groups B and C.

was characterised by the absence of several species, including *L. achilles*, *L. havock*, *P. haeckeli*, and *Haliceas minimum* from bathypelagic group D in 2005. Furthermore, meso/bathypelagic samples in 2006 had a high frequency with less than five individuals.

A major factor for spatial and temporal variation in zooplankton density is bottom-up control through variation in the quantity of primary production (Richardson and Schoeman, 2004). Differences in abundance/biomass of cnidarians between years can be explained by the difference in the amount of primary production. Earlier and greater sea ice retreat and warmer surface water temperature in 2005 would may have generated higher primary production and more abundant herbivore copepods than in 2006, resulting in a large abundance/biomass of cnidarians. Pelagic cnidarians forage for zooplankton such as copepods or salps as well as other gelatinous plankton and fish eggs/larvae (Pagès and Schnack-Schiel, 1996; Costello and Colin, 2002; Purcell, 2003; Suchman et al., 2008).

In this study, the vertical distribution patterns of cnidarians were similar to those of copepods in both 2005 and 2006, although the main depth of distribution was different between the years. Vertical distribution patterns of copepods and salps are likely to be an important determinant of distribution and abundance/

biomass of the pelagic cnidarians in Lützow–Holm Bay. However, the Euphausiacea has a negative impact on the distribution of other zooplankton through competition, as indicated by the krill-dominant assemblages associated with the low density of other zooplankton (Hunt et al., 2007). The large number of krill in surface waters in 2006 likely caused a low copepod density by competition. However, in 2005, the Euphausiacea had a reduced top-down impact resulting in a similar vertical distribution pattern to copepods. Higher primary production likely reduced competition with zooplankton in 2005.

5. Conclusion

The structure of the pelagic cnidarian community in Lützow–Holm Bay is typically divided vertically as follows: 1) the epipelagic community (0–200 m; observed in SSW, WW, and upper MCDW) is characterised by high abundance of *D. antarctica*, *D. arc-tica*, and *M. bargmannae*, with moderate species richness; 2) the upper mesopelagic community (200–500 m; upper MCDW) is characterised by high species richness and the two species *V. serrata* and *H. conica*, but low abundance; 3) the lower mesopelagic and bathypelagic community (500–2000 m; lower

MCDW) is characterised by high species richness but low abundance. *L. achilles*, *P. hackeli*, *L. havock*, and *H. minimum* are representative of this layer, although not in great numbers.

The abundance/biomass and assemblages of cnidarians in the epipelagic layer (0–200 m) and meso- and bathypelagic layers (500–2000 m) are most likely affected by the level of primary production, although these values were stable in the 200–500 m layer. The vertical distribution pattern in terms of abundance/biomass was also affected by a combination of bottom-up, top-down controls and competition in relation to the interannual variation in primary production.

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