

# OSTRACODS AND FORAMINIFERA LIVING ON CORALLIGENOUS BIOCONSTRUCTIONS OFFSHORE MARZAMEMI (IONIAN SEA SOUTHERN ITALY)

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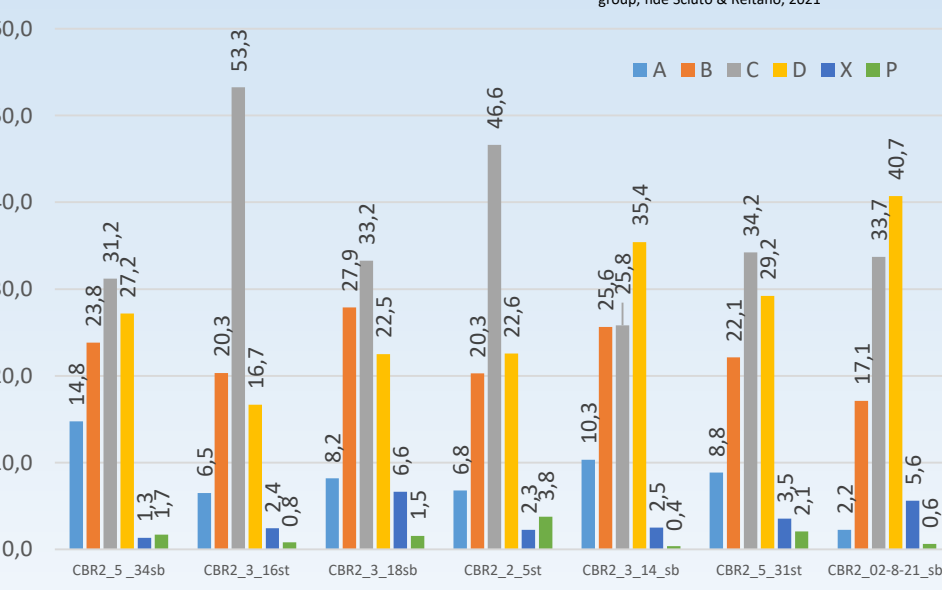
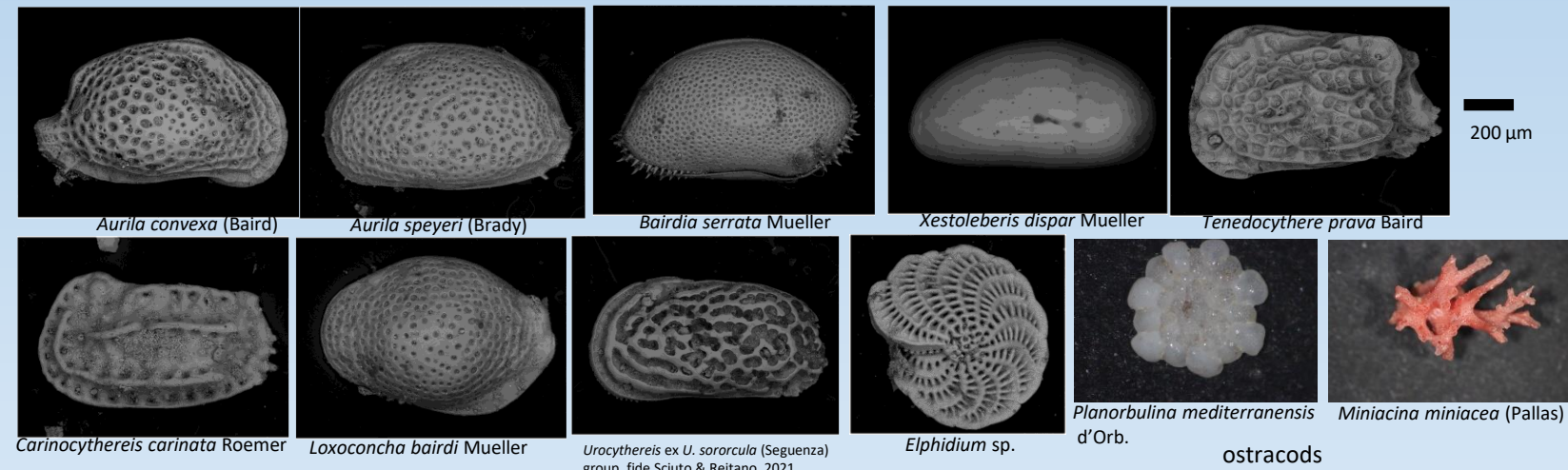


Within the project “CRESCIBLUREEF - Grown in the blue: new technologies for knowledge and conservation of Mediterranean reefs”, living ostracod and foraminifera associated to Coralligenous bioconstructions, mainly consisting of calcareous red algae, are analysed for the first time along the Ionian coast of the SE Sicily offshore Marzamemi (SR, Italy).



By coralligenous we mean a bioherm of coralline algae subjected to low levels of brightness that develops in relatively calm waters; it should be considered more like a submarine landscape or a “community puzzle” than as a single community because it includes, in addition to the dominant calcareous algae, different types of communities ranging from non-calcareous, sciaphilic algae to many type of invertebrates which live, in different ways, both at the top of the bioconstruction or on its sides or on the surface or within the sediments surrounding the bioconstruction.

Microfauna were collected by scuba divers. Foraminifers and ostracods were aspirated through a siphon from the surface of the algal bioconstruction (sample ST) and from the surrounding bottom sediment (standard surface approximately 40x40 cm).



OSTRACOD SPECIES/SAMPLES	CBR 2 5 34 SB	CBR 2 3 18 SB	CBR 2 3 14 SB	CBR 2 02 8 21 SB	CBR 2 5 31 ST	CBR 2 3 16 ST
<i>Aurila convexa</i>			1	2	1	v
<i>Aurila speyeri</i>	j		1+v	25+j		
<i>Aurila interpres</i>	1	1+j				
<i>Bairdia mediterranea</i>	2+j	3+j	3+j	6+j	5+j	2+j
<i>Bairdia serrata</i>	1		j		2	
<i>Callistocythere sp.</i>	j	1				3j
<i>Carinocythereis carinata</i>			1	4v		
<i>Costa batei</i>						1
<i>Loxoconcha rhomboidea</i>	j	2+j		8+j	2	2+j
<i>Loxoconcha tumida</i>				3+j		1
<i>Loxoconcha bairdi</i>				6+j	2	2
<i>Loxoconcha minima</i>				10+j		
<i>Paradoxostoma versicolor</i>		1				
<i>Polycope sp. Juv.</i>						2
<i>Pantocypris acuminata</i>	2	1	1	1		
<i>Semicytherura paradoxa</i>	1					
<i>Tenedocythere prava</i>	3+j	2+jv	4+j	40+j	2+j	6+j
<i>Urocythereis favosa</i>				v		v
<i>Urocythereis labyrinthica</i>				v		
<i>Xestoleberis communis</i>	4	4+j	4+j	17+v	2	4+j
<i>Xestoleberis dispar</i>	4	6+j	5+j	20+j	18	8+j
<i>Xestoleberis plana</i>				1		
J juveniles						
v valves						

The most abundant ostracod species are those written in red. The most diversified sample (CBR 2 02 8 21 SB) is also the most abundant one. It is a sample taken from the sediment surrounding the algal concretion in which all or most of the growth stages of *T. prava*, *X. dispar*, *X. communis*, *A. speyeri* are present.

A: encrusting or permanently attached forams taxa; B: temporarily attached taxa with flat umbilical surface; C suspension feeder motile foraminifers which can extrude pseudopods to suspend themselves to the algae; D: permanently motile grazing epiphyte foraminifers; X: no data; P: planktonic forams.

