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## Marine Algae of the Greek West Coast

S. Haritonidis and I. Tsekos

Botanical Institute, University of Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, Greece

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The main purpose of this research was to study the marine flora in the midlittoral and upper infralittoral zones of the Greek west coast. About 175 species were noticed in the 11 localities selected for study: 33 green algae, 36 brown algae, 101 red algae, 2 blue-green algae and 3 marine phanerogams. The ratio R/P = 2.86 indicates a more boreal than subtropical type of vegetation.

### Introduction

The western coasts of Greece show a particular variety of forms, owing to the calcareous composition of the rocky coast as well as the strong wave action and the various currents of the Ionian Sea.

So far, very little is known about and no systematic research has been done upon the marine flora on the Greek coasts of the Ionian Sea. Sordina (1951) presents a list of marine algae of Corfu (Kerkyra) Island which he derived from the unpublished collection of Mazziari. Levring (1942) mentions in one of his studies the species *Ulva rigida* C. Ag., *Bryopsis plumosa* (Huds.) C. Ag., *Pterocladia capillacea* (Gmel.) Born. et Thur. found on the coast near Patras. Further research work, not in the Ionian but in the nearby Adriatic Sea and on the Italian coasts has been made periodically by Yugoslavian and Italian researchers (Ercegovic 1952, Giaccone 1969, Riedl 1970, Munda 1973, etc.).

Earlier research upon the Greek marine flora in general is mentioned in the publications of Diannelidis (1950), Haritonidis and Tsekos (1974, 1975), Tsekos and Haritonidis (1974) and Gerloff and Geissler (1974).

Eleven biotopes have been chosen for study altogether. The selection was principally based on ecological criteria, but in some cases it was necessary to give up these on account of the difficulty in approaching the shore. So was the case at Amphilochia, located within the Ambrakikos Gulf, which communicates with the open Ionian Sea by a narrow passage of approximately 300 m, near the town of Preveza and of Nafpaktos and Itea, located in the Corinthian Gulf.

Collecting took place during May, June and July 1975. Also some additional collections took place at Pylos in July 1974.

The localities were:

1. Igoumenitsa, 2. Parga, 3. Preveza, 4. Amphilochia in May 1975; 5. Nafpaktos, 6. Itea, 7. Kyllini, 8. Katakolon, 9. Kyparissia, 10. Pylos, 11. Methoni in June 1975 and 2a. Parga: 28–30 July 1975, 10a. Pylos: 15–18 July 1974.

Collecting took place in the midlittoral and infralittoral zones to a depth of 4 m by diving. The Pérès and Picard (1964) zonation system was followed as far as possible, as well as the taxonomic nomenclature of Feldmann (1937), Gayral (1966), Giaccone (1968a, b), Parke and Dixon (1968), Gerloff and Geissler (1974). The species have been put into alphabetical order in the classes.

In total 175 species of mostly macroscopic marine algae, and 3 species of marine anthophytes have been identified.

### Localities

1. Igoumenitsa (Fig. 2)

At the mouth of Igoumenitsa harbour there is a small peninsula with a direction parallel to the coast. The inner coast of the peninsula is sandy, shallow and leeward. Various halophytes, such as *Salicornia herbacea*, *Sueda maritima* etc. grow in large biotopes. Further on, in the shallow waters *Cymodocea nodosa* covers the sea-bottom up to a depth of 1.5 m. Various filamentous Rhodophyceae, such as *Ceramium* and *Polysiphonia* species appear as epiphytes on *Cymodocea*. The occurrence of the green algae *Acetabularia mediterranea* in thick crests is characteristic on sand, stones and shells. The predominance of Rhodophyceae in general and particularly *Halopitys pinastroides*, 15–20 cm high, is apparent.