

NOTES ON SOME INVERTEBRATES OF THE FLEET,

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During a study of the marine molluscs of the Fleet (Seaward 1980), some other invertebrates have come to my notice, usually because of an association with molluscs. Thus the following notes are of a somewhat random nature except where the molluscan connection applies, and in a few cases they duplicate entries in the above reference.

COELENTERATA:HYDROIDA

Obelia dichotoma (L.) Abundant on Zostera and Ruppia in the upper Fleet where it forms the food of the nudibranchs Eubranchius farrani and Tenellia pallida.

Perigonimus repens Wright. Rare on Zostera in the upper Fleet.

COELENTERATA:HYDROMEDUSA

Cladonema radiatum Dujardin. The medusa phase is occasional to frequent in waters of the Fleet and Portland Harbour, but I have not found the hydroid phase.

COELENTERATA:ANTHOZOA

Nematostella vectensis Stephenson. A small anemone frequently found burrowing in mud in mid to upper Fleet is probably this species, but requires satisfactory determination.

PLATYHELMINTHES:TURBELLARIA

Leptoplana sp. (probably L. tremellaris (O.F. Muller). This common flatworm is probably the most significant predator of the small gastropods in the upper Fleet; a few in an aquarium sample of weed with associated fauna will rapidly devour most of the Hydrobiids and Rissoids present, leaving clean, empty shells.

CRUSTACEA:ISOPODA

Sphaeroma hookeri Leach. Frequent in debris in the Upper Fleet in December 1977.

Idotea baltica (Pallas). Among Zostera etc., in the upper Fleet in August 1974.

I. chelipes (Pallas). Common among Zostera in the upper Fleet.

Ligia oceanica (L.). The Sea Slater is widespread along the Fleet shore, but only numerous in the lower Fleet where crevices among available just

above HWM.

CRUSTACEA:AMPHIPODA

Melita palmata (Montagu). Among Zostera etc., in the upper Fleet in December 1977.

Ericthonius brasiliensis (Dana). This corophiid is abundant, forming tubes on Zostera etc. in the upper Fleet.

CRUSTACEA:SCHIZOPODA

Praunus flexuosus (Muller). Opossum shrimps are common, often in shoals, in the upper Fleet. This species was present at Langton Hive Point in August 1978.

BRYOZOA:CTENOSTOMATA

Alcyonidium sp., ("perhaps of the 'mytili-polyoum' complex").

Frequent on the gastropods Littorina saxatilis and Rissoa membranacea living permanently submerged among vegetation in the upper Fleet, forming gelatinous incrustations on the shells of the living animals, sometimes completely covering the shell.

Bowerbankia sp., (probably B. gracilis 'Leidy'). Common as gelatinous incrustations around the stems of vegetation in the upper Fleet.

TUNICATA:ASCIDIACEA

Botryllus schlosseri (Pallas). Occasional on vegetation in the upper Fleet.

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