

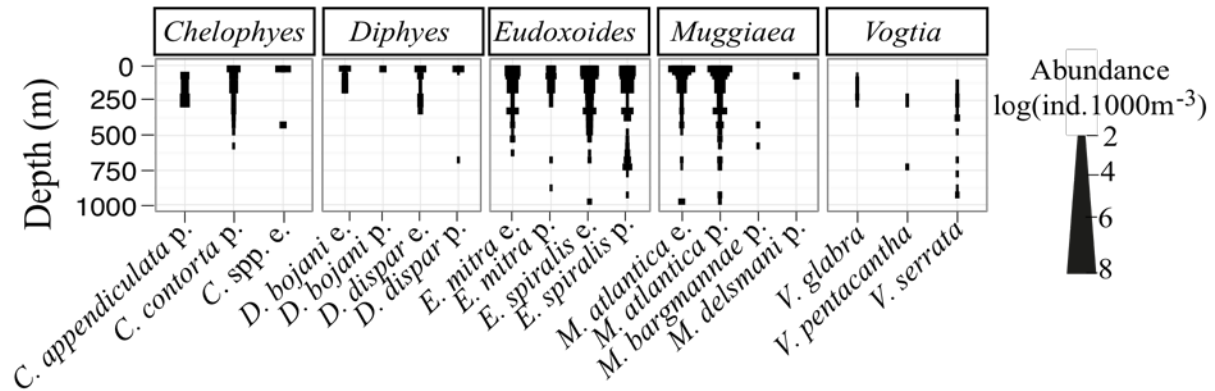
Maintenance of Siphonophore biodiversity in Sagami Bay and surrounding waters.

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Siphonophora were found to represent around 70% of all Cnidaria and Ctenophora collected in stratified net samples off of south-eastern Japan in March 2006. The diversity of siphonophores, based on the most recent taxonomic works, was found to be more than twice that recorded from the Canadian Pacific (Mapstone, 2009) or the North Atlantic (Hosia, *et al.*, 2008; Pugh, 1984). How is this diversity supported? Does the observed community reflect the ‘standing stock’ of siphonophores in this zone, or is it merely a snapshot of various populations entrained by lateral transport via the large oceanic currents shaping the hydrography of this region: the Kuroshio current, Oyashio Intermediate Water and North Pacific Intermediate Water.

Inter- and intra-species interactions of the Siphonophora were studied by combining oceanographic, distributional, morphological and genetic data to try and assess the factors playing dominant roles in the maintenance and stability of siphonophore biodiversity.



Vertical distribution and abundance of the different life forms within several siphonophore genera.