

Taxonomic Composition and Distribution of Meroplankton in the Novorossiysk Bay of the Black Sea

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Abstract: The meroplankton of the Novorossiysk Bay enlists 15 polychaete, 19 molluscan, 7 decapod, 1 cirripede and 1 phoronide species. The dominant among them by the numerical density were *Mytilaster lineatus*, *Mytilus galloprovincialis*, *Balanus improvisus* and *Polydora ciliata*. The density of meroplankton was peaking up to $18 \cdot 10^3$ ind/m³ during the mass spawning of *M. lineatus*, *B. improvisus* and *P. ciliata* in summer. Larvae of *M. galloprovincialis* and *B. improvisus* were most numerous during spring and autumn. Taxonomic composition and distribution of meroplankton varied in different parts of the Bay depending on the level of pollution. Larvae of *P. ciliata* and *B. improvisus* were most abundant in the polluted port area. Larvae *Mytilaster lineatus* were common also in the cleaner open part of the Novorossiysk Bay.

Key words: Novorossiysk Bay, meroplankton