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## COMPOSITION AND ABUNDANCE OF THE MEDUSAN COMMUNITY IN THE BAY OF ALGIERS UNDER ANTHROPOGENIC PRESSURES

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Hierarchical Cluster

Analysis revealing a

proliferating Medusae

in coastal waters near

the port of Algiers,

within the planktonic

Dominant species

in bay of Algiers

cnidarian community

group of

distinct

Species that proliferate near

the port station

Planktonic cnidarian (Medusae and Siphonophorae) are considered the most abundant non-crustacean invertebrate predators. Along the Algerian coast, there has been a significant surge in research focused on gelatinous zooplankton populations: Khames and Hafferssas 2018, 2019, Kherchouche and Hafferssas, 2020, Khames et al. 2023 and Kherchouche et al., 2024. The objective of this study is to characterize the specific composition and distribution of the medusan populations in Algiers Bay, taking into account the impact of anthropogenic pressures and the deterioration in environmental quality.

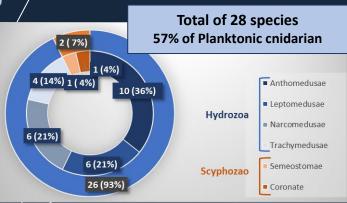
## **METHODOLOGY**

Sampling period 2015 and 2017 in the Algiers Bay, situated in the central part of the Algerian coast.

Vertical hauls from the surface to a maximum depth of 100 meters, using a standard Working Party 2 plankton net (200 μm mesh size).



## RESULTS & DISCUSSION



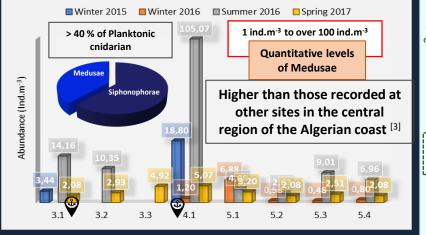
Non-indigenous species

Kantiella enigmatica and

Cirrholovenia tetranema [1]

have been collected at nearport stations

Their introduction is thought to be due to **ballast** water [2].



Great quantitative variation linked to the near port stations

Meroplankton species *Eucodonium brownei, Obelia* spp. and *Lizzia blondina* (> 10 ind.m<sup>-3</sup>).

Biological responses to environmental changes [4].

E. paradoxica

P noctiluca

L. blondina

Obelia spp A. tetragona

L. subtilis

M. atlantica

**Anthropogenic constructions in the coastal zone**, such as port facilities, provide an advantageous substrate for the adhesion of polyp colonies<sup>[5]</sup>



**CONCLUSION** 

The findings of this study serve as a preliminary reference point for future research, which will require a significant amount of spatio-temporal data to fully comprehend the distribution of these zooplankton species in relation to the quality and degradation of coastal ecosystems.

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