

Biodiversity, Feeding and Reproduction of Copepods of Chennai Coast – India.

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Abstract: Diversity studies of copepods of 2 stations (Muttukadu and Ennore) of Chennai coast (13°06N and 80°18E) from Mar. 2002 – Feb. 2003 recorded 33 species. Of which 14 species belong to calanoids, 13 species belong to cyclopoids and 6 species belong to harpacticoids. Among calanoids *Pseudodiaptomus* sp., *Centropages* sp. and *Eucalanus* sp. were more dominant at Muttukadu. *Acrocalanus* sp., *Paracalanus* sp. and *Centropages* sp. were dominant at Ennore. Poecilostomatoids genera such as *Corycaeus* sp. and *Onacea* sp. occurred more commonly at Muttukadu while Oithonids dominated at Ennore. Higher diversity of harpacticoids was recorded at Muttukadu than Ennore. The common genera are *Euterpina*, *Microsetella* and *Macrosetella*. In general, higher female ratio was observed in all copepods. However, highly biased male ration was observed in *Pseudodiaptomus aurivilli*. Copepods were statistically analyzed and their food and feeding habits and reproductive ecology are discussed.