

and inactive sites of the TAG and Snake Pit vent fields (part of the French exploration permit area), using the HOV Nautille. Benthic fauna, macro- and meiofaunal organisms, is identified and analyzed using a combination of classical (taxonomy) and molecular (barcode) techniques, in order to describe the benthic community inhabiting sediments along the gradient and characterize the ecological connectivity in the area.

Keywords: Deep-sea mining, hydrothermal vents, connectivity, macrofauna, meiofauna

ID: 5988

Effect of salinity and habitat on rotifer communities from the United States and description of two new species

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Thalassic rotifers are poorly investigated, especially in the New World. This study shows the results of a faunistic survey in saline waters from six sites located in the Northeastern states and one in California. We characterized samples by different salinity values and habitats (such as open waters, temporary flooded marshes, and circumscribed ponds) and compared community compositions to test for possible ecological correlations. Results indicate significant correlations between rotifer communities and both salinities and habitats, supporting that the biodiversity of small species provides fundamental information for ecosystem biomonitoring. During the survey, we identified two species never described before: here we describe and formally name *Encentrum melonei* sp. nov. and *Synchaeta grossa* sp. nov. This investigation also leads to a refined description of *Encentrum rousseleti* (Lie-Pettersen, 1905). Finally, we provide a comprehensive review of the diversity and distribution of thalassic rotifers in the United States.

Keywords: Brackish, marine, meiofauna, microscopic invertebrates, North America, taxonomy, thalassic

ID: 5991

Meiobenthos and nematode fauna of Hainan mangroves (China)

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As part of a project to study mangrove meiobenthos associations in various geographical regions of southeast Asia, mangrove associations of Hainan Island, South-China Sea were investigated in November 2014. Small