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## MARINE AMPHIPODS FROM PANTELLERIA AND CATANIA (SICILY)

**G.KRAPP-SCHICKEL** 

#### ABSTRACT

During two stays, in 1970 and 1973 at Pantelleria and Catania, a total of 48 samples from algae and sand were collected yielding 90 species of Amphipoda. Systematic problems were posed by the following species: Gammaropsis cf. erythrophthalma, Gammaropsis n. sp., Lysianassa pilicornis, Microjassa cumbrensis, Micropythia carinata, Panoploea minuta, and Photis longipes. Panoploea and Lysianassa are figured here. The generic name Micropythia nom. nov. is proposed for Pythia Krapp-Schickel, 1972, nec Bolten, 1798. Faunal successions on three algae-covered slopes near Catania are analyzed. Two diagrams give ecological information: a matrix of homogeneity of those samples taken in 1970 having a high mutual homogeneity, and a schematical succession of the biotopes where algae were sampled along a slope on the coast of the islet of Lachea, with their respective interrelationships.

## INTRODUCTION

In September 1970 I had the opportunity to join a group of botanists from the universities of Trieste, Padova, Palermo and Catania who intended

to collect algae at the island of Pantelleria. After five days collecting, breakers grew so heavy that skin-diving in the waters of the exposed coasts of the island became too great a risk. The excursion was interrupted and I was invited to spend another five days to collect near Catania. The excursion resulted for me in 19 samples of amphipods from Pantelleria containing 46 species with 2744 specimens, and 12 samples, with 65 species, in 2671 specimens from Catania. In 1973 I paid again a visit to the Strait of Messina to work at the Institute of Botany in Catania. The same stations as in 1970 were visited, and 17 samples now contained 72 species in 4635 specimens.

The 1970 collection from Catania contained as the most spectacular find a specimen of *Microjassa* sp. which we considered for a long time to be an undescribed species. In cooperation with Ulrich Schiecke, Kiel, the entire life cycle of this animal could be established and we could relate it with high probability to the already known juvenile morphs of Microjassa cumbrensis (Stebbing & Robertson). A description of the developmental series up to the hyperadult form has been published in a separate paper (Krapp-Schickel & Schiecke, 1974).

## LIST OF SAMPLES

Pantelleria: 14 - 19 IX 1970

- 1 Cystoseira sedoides, 1.5 m, Punta Fram: Stenothoe tergestina 50%, Elasmopus pocillimanus 17%, Pereionotus testudo 11%.
- Corallina granifera upon Cystoseira, 2 1 m. Punta Fram: Elasmopus pocillimanus 57%, Dexamine spiniventris 11%, Hyale schmidti 10%.
- Laurencia papillosa, Cladophora pellucida, Peyssonelia, Corallina, 0.5 m, Cuddie Rosse: 3 Hyale schmidti 64%, Amphithoe ramondi 10%, Elasmopus pocillimanus 9%.
- Cystoseira brachycarpa, Cystoseira spinosa, Cystoseira sauvageauana, 12 m, Cuddie Rosse: Ъ Hyale schmidti 14%, Amphithoe ramondi 13%, Apherusa alacris 12%.
- Cystoseira stricta, 1.5 m, Cuddie Rosse: Hyale schmidti 64%, Elasmopus pocillimanus 5 26%, Jassa falcata 8%.
- 6 Cystoseira stricta, 0.5-1.0 m, Cuddie Rosse: Hyale schmidti 96%, Caprella liparotensis 3%, Podocerus variegatus 1%.
- 7 Posidonia oceanica, 1 m, Port of Pantelleria: Microdeutopus damnoniensis 36%, Amphithoe bicuspis 26%, Elasmopus pocillimanus 7%.
- Sargassum sp., Halopteris scoparia, Pterocladia capillacea, 1-2 m, Port of Pantelleria: Hyale schmidti 25%, Sunamphithoe pelagica 23%, Elasmopus pocillimanus 10%.
- Cystoseira spinosa and Posidonia, 5 m, Punta 11 Scauri: Amphithoe bicuspis 31%, Leucothoe spinicarpa 8%, Maera inaequipes 8%.
- Pterocladia capillacea, Laurencia papillosa, 12 1 m, Punta Scauri: Hyale schmidti 38%, Amphithoe bicuspis 16%, Dexamine spiniventris 7%.
- Dictyopteris membranacea, Cladophora sp., 13 1-2 m, Port of Pantelleria: Elasmopus pocillimanus 25%, Hyale schmidti 16%, Pereionotus testudo 14%.
- Cladostephus verticillatus, Cystoseira se-doides, 0.5 m, Punta Scauri: Hyale schmidti 14 38%, Amphithoe bicuspis 32%, Stenothoe tergestina 9%.
- 15 Cystoseira sedoides, 1 m, Punta Scauri: Amphithoe bicuspis 27%, Amphilochus neapolita-nus 18%, Gitana sarsi 13%.
- Cystoseira stricta, 1.5 m, Punta Scauri: 16 Hyale schmidti 30%, Elasmopus pocillimanus 20%, Stenothoe tergestina 13%.
- Cystoseira fimbriata, Laurencia papillosa, 17 0.0 m, Punta Fram: Hyale schmidti 64%, Steno-thoe tergestina 7%, Microdeutopus algicola 6%.
- 18 Laurencia papillosa, 0.2 m, Punta Fram: Microdeutopus algicola 45%, Elasmopus pocillimanus 20%, Dexamine spiniventris 15%.
- 19 Anadyomene stellata, Laurencia papillosa, Cystoseira sauvageauana, 0.5 m, Punta Fram: Microdeutopus algicola 52%, Hyale schmidti 13%, Elasmopus pocillimanus 10%.

- 20 Anadyomene stellata, 0.5 m, Punta Fram: Microdeutopus algicola 61%, Pereionotus testudo 11%, Gammarella fucicola 11%.
- Zostera, only rhizoids, with sand, 1.0-1.5 m, Port of Pantelleria: Microdeutopus versiculatus 53%, Elasmopus pocillimanus 15%, Erichthonius brasiliensis 9%.

Catania: 21 - 25 IX 1970

- Halopteris scoparia, 1 m, Isola Lachea: Podo-cerus variegatus 10%, Elasmopus pocillimanus 23 10%, Hyale schmidti 10%.
- 24 Dictyopteris membranacea, 1.5 m, Isola Lachea: Hyale schmidti 33%, Amphithoe ramondi 12%, Stenothoe gallensis 10%.
- Padina pavonia, Jania rubens, 2-4 m, Isola Lachea: Maera inaequipes 11%, Hyale schmidti 25 10%, Elasmopus pocillimanus 10%.
- 26 Sargassum sp., Jania rubens, Zonaria tournefortii and epiphytes, 6.0 m, Isola Lachea: Dexamine spiniventris 20%, Gammaropsis cf. erythrophthalma 14%, Hyale camptonyx 11%.
- Posidonia sp. fronds only, 12 m, Isola Lachea: Liljeborgia dellavallei 17%, Leptocheirus 27 bispinosus 17%, Ampelisca tenuicornis 17%.
- 28 Posidonia sp. rhizoids with sand only, 12-20 Isola Lachea: Ampelisca serraticaudata 12%, Pereionotus testudo 11%, Leptocheirus bispinosus 10%.
- Sand, 40 m, Capo Molini: Photis longipes 47%. 29 Ampelisca tenuicornis 25%, Microjassa cumbrensis 7%.
- 30 Codium bursa, red algae, 25 m, Capo Molini: Pseudoprotella phasma 19%, Lysianassa pilicornis 15%, Gammaropsis cf. erythrophthalma 12%, Stenothoe tergestina 12%.
- 31 Fauchea repens, Lomentaria linearis, Sebdenia monardina, Valonia utricularis, 35 m, Capo Molini: Phtisica marina 36%, Gammaropsis nov. sp. 26%, Stenothoe tergestina 9%.
- Sargassum sp. with epiphytes, 7 m, Capo Moli-ni: Pseudoprotella phasma 15%, Dexamine spi-32 niventris 14%, Pereionotus testudo 10%.
- 33 Cystoseira spicata, Halopteris scoparia, 4 m, Capo Molini: Hyale camptonyx 19%, Amphilochus neapolitanus 13%, Dexamine spiniventris 11%.
- Sargassum sp. with epiphytes, 7 m, Isola 34 Lachea: Hyale schmidti 35%, Apherusa bispinosa 19%, Dexamine spiniventris 10%, Amphithoe ramondi 8%.

## Catania: 11 - 13 X 1973

- Hydroids, 1.5 m, Capo Molini: Stenothoe gal-lensis 24%, Hyale schmidti 18%, Caprella li-41 parotensis 16%.
- Porifera, corals, 6 m, Capo Molini: Pseudo-protella phasma 36%, Phtisica marina 18%, 42 Stenothoe dollfusi 15%.
- Sand, 28 m, Capo Molini: Ampelisca serrati-caudata 75%, Photis longipes 25%. 43
- Porifera, corals, 28 m, Capo Molini: Guernea 44 coalita 21%, Caprella acanthifera 11%, Phtisica marina 10%.
- Pterocladia capillacea, 1-2 m, Capo Molini: Caprella liparotensis 34%, Hyale schmidti 45 29%, Stenothoe gallensis 19%.

46 Cystoseira zosteroides = opuntioides, 28 m, Capo Molini: Lysianassa pilicornis 13%, Panoploea minuta 12%, Pseudoprotella phasma 10%.

47 Cystoseira stricta, 1 m, Capo Molini: Jassa

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falcata 43%, Hyale schmidti 26%, Stenothoe gallensis 18%.

- 48 Cystoseira dubia = fucoides, 20 m, Capo Molini: Cressa dubia 21%, Pseudoprotella phasma 18%, Pereionotus testudo 13%.
- 49 Cystoseira ercegovici = discors, Codium bursa, 18 m, Capo Molini: Caprella liparotensis 36%, Biancolina algicola 21%, Pleonexes bicuspis 14%, Erichthonius brasiliensis 12%.
- 50 Cystoseira balearica, with Aglaophenia tubiformis, A. octodonta, 3 m, Capo Molini: Elasmopus pocillimanus 19%, Stenothoe gallensis 17%, Caprella liparotensis 13%.
- 51 Sand, 35 m, Isola Lachea: Erichthonius brasiliensis 21%, Phtisica marina 14%, Stenothoe dollfusi 14%.
- 52 Porifera, Ascidiacea, Aglaophenia picardi (cf. Svoboda, 1974) (Hydroida), 32 m, Isola Lachea: Gammaropsis n. sp. 16%, Phtisica marina 14%, Lembos sp. 10%.
- 53 Cystoseira dubia, the octocoral Eunicella sp., the hydroids Aglaophenia kirchenpaueri and A. picardi (cf. Svoboda, 1974), 32 m, Isola Lachea: Stenothoe gallensis 24%, Gammaropsis n. sp. 17%, Pseudoprotella phasma 15%.
- 54 Udothea sp., Peyssonelia squamaria, 10 m, Isola Lachea: Stenothoe dollfusi 32%, Gammaropsis cf. erythrophthalma 14%, Pseudoprotella phasma 9%.
- 55 Cave with Porifera and red algae, 10 m, Isola Lachea: Gammaropsis n. sp., 35%, Philsica marina 18%, Pseudoprotella phasma 9%.
- 56 Cystoseira sauvageana, 10 m, Isola Lachea: Gammaropsis n. sp., 13%, Podocerus variegatus 10%, Hyale camptonyx 10%, Pereionotus testudo 10%.
- 57 Cystoseira stricta, Cystoseira mediterranea,
   1 m, Isola Lachea: Stenothoe gallensis 30%,
   Sunamphithoe pelagica 21%, Elasmopus pocillimanus 13%, Caprella liparotensis 12%.

### SYSTEMATICS

In the present paper no reference is given to the synonymies of the species found. This was extensively done in previous publications (Krapp-Schickel, 1969, 1971, 1974; Geldiay, Kocataş & Krapp-Schickel, 1971), and would be a mere repetition, as in all my collections the main emphasis is laid on phytal-inhabiting forms. The present study is intended to give information on the species encountered and the frequency of their occurrence; the important dominances may be found in the list of samples.

Only some systematic details merit special mention: Gammaropsis cf. erythrophthalma sensu Schellenberg, 1942: G. erythrophthalma Liljeborg, 1855, according to Sars, 1894, Stebbing, 1906, as well as Chevreux & Fage, 1925, is said to be identical with Eurystheus maculatus (Johnston, 1827). This opinion is erroneous. A solution of the problem is proposed in Myers & Krapp-Schickel, 1976.

*Gammaropsis* n. sp.: This species is morphologically quite similar to the preceding one, but has two very conspicuous dorsal teeth on the last urosomal segment, and a somewhat different shape of the gnathopods (cf. Myers & Krapp-Schickel, 1976).

Gammaropsis maculatus: this is probably Johnston's species, not the one referred to under this name by Chevreux & Fage, 1925.

Microjassa cumbrensis (fig. 7 below): see Krapp-Schickel & Schiecke, 1974.

Micropythia carinata (Pythia carinata Krapp-Schickel, 1972: 177-189, figs. 1-5). In 1972 I created for Hyale carinata the new genus Pythia. But - as I was informed by an Austrian colleague - this name is preoccupied by an oriental snail genus, described by J.F. Bolten, 1798, so I have to replace it once again by the generic name Micropythia nom. nov.

Lysianassa pilicornis (figs. 1, 2, 3). In a previous work (Krapp-Schickel, 1974) I redescribed Heller's Lysianassa pilicornis  $\delta$ . As it showed no appreciable differences from Lysianassa (Arugella) bispinosa, I thought it to be the adult  $\delta$  of this same species, of which previously only the juvenile  $\delta$  was described. By this synonymy L. pilicornis by priority became the valid name for the species hitherto called L. bispinosa. As I noticed some occasional reservation as regards this synonymy, I give a figure of a from Della Valle's type collection to adstruct my arguments. It agrees in all characters with the material from Sicily and Pantelleria.

Panoploea minuta (fig. 4). The figure shows that a distinction between Iphimedia and Panoploea is rather difficult. Keys lay much attention on the mouth parts and the third epimeral plate. However, the articles of the palp of the maxilliped as well as the maxilla change in their relative proportions during growth of Panoploea species. A maxilliped with the external lobe shorter than the penultimate palp article should belong to Panoploea, in case it is longer to Iphimedia, but this is as little reliable as the characters of the maxillae (see fig. 4). The palp of maxilla 1 in a 2 mm long specimen from Pantelleria is considerably longer than the external lobe (which should be indicative of Iphimedia), in an animal of 3.5 mm from Sicily it is shorter (as described for Panoploea). The series examined is called P. minu-

ta on account of the denticulation of epimeral plate 3 and the form of the palp of maxilla 1, consisting of two slender articles, the second of which is barely twice the length of the first (in Iphimedia of threefold length). According to Chevreux & Fage (1925) the lower lip is also of some identification value; Sars, 1895, gives a drawing of the lower lip in Iphimedia obesa, which is practically identical with the same appendix in Panoploea minuta as illustrated by Chevreux & Fage. The dentation of the base of pereiopod 7 is very apparent in juveniles, and it seems that this becomes less conspicuous during growth. In résumé, both genera are so closely related, that it should be considered to withdraw the more recently established Panoploea into the older genus.

Photis longipes (figs. 5, 6, 7 top) (Cerapopsis longipes Della Valle, 1893: 388; pl. 3, fig. 10; pl. 9, figs. 20-40; pl. 56, fig. 1. Photis longicarpa Chevreux, 1925: 374-376, figs. 18-19). A representative series of this species containing various developmental stages was fully convincing in demonstrating the identity of Cerapopsis longipes Della Valle (see fig. 7) with Photis longicarpa Chevreux, since the small inner ramus of the third uropod apparently disappears during the maturation process. This means that not only the allocation of these genera into separate families (Barnard, 1958, 1969, included Cerapopsis in the family Corophiidae; in Barnard, 1973, Photidae, Aoridae and Isaeidae are all united to Corophiicae), but likewise that the separation of the two genera is not tenable.

A considerable part of the 1970 collection was deposited in the Zoölogisch Museum of the University of Amsterdam, whereas all amphipods collected in 1973 are stored in the Museo Civico di Storia naturale of Verona.

## ECOLOGY

In fig. 8 selected samples from Pantelleria and Catania 1970 are plotted against eachother in a homogeneity diagram (cf. Krapp-Schickel, 1969, 1971, 1974 a). Three homogeneity classes are indicated: solid black for combinations exceeding a value of 45%, hatching indicates homogeneity values between 45% and 30%, and open spaces mean homogeneity values below 30%.

Samples 6, 5, 17, and 3 each contain over 60% Hyale schmidti; they come from exposed Cystoseira and Laurencia at the water-line. Samples 12, 14, 16, 24, 34, and 8, next in succession in fig. 8, contain about 35% Hyale schmidti and originate from algae growing in more protected, mostly deeper, sites richer in sedimentation (at about 1.5 m). The latter three of these samples contain Amphithoe ramondi and Sunamphithoe pelagica, whereas the first two present Amphithoe bicuspis. The two black triangles formed by this sample group are the largest in the whole diagram; they comprise 8 samples from Pantelleria and only 2 from Catania. This accentuates a conclusion that may be drawn also from the sample list: at Pantelleria samples were taken at several places along its coast, accordingly the habitat: Cystoseira exposed to the surf dominates. At Catania an attempt was made to sample a series of different biotopes on the same slope, so each of the samples differs much more from the others in faunal composition. Some lesser groups embrace samples meriting special mention: 13, 25, 4, and 23 come from even greater depth as the preceding ones, viz. 2-12 m; no species is dominant, but the samples possess in common quite a number of species of comparable frequency, among them Hyale schmidti with 10-16%. Samples 11 and 15 contain 27-31% Amphithoe bicuspis, these sites were situated in a channel carved by splashing surf water, overgrown by Anadyomene and Laurencia with very much sediment and very slight water motion. Hatched quadrangles in the matrix are good indicators for a transitional fauna, i.e. a faunal composition without distinct concentrations.

Fig. 9 depicts schematically the biotopes along a slope of the coast of Isola Lachea, where samples were taken from 1-12 m. Greatest homogeneity unites samples 23 and 25 (cf. list of samples), both are little exposed and accumulate detritus in the algae Halopteris and Jania. Hyale schmidti and Elasmopus pocillimanus are represented with a frequency of 10% each. The supple, floating Dictyopteris membranacea (24) holds over 30% Hyale schmidti; in common with the equally floating Sargassum (26) they hold Amphithoe ramondi as well as Microjassa cumbrensis, whereas in sample 25 (Padina pavonia with epiphytic Jania, on rocks and large pebbles) Photis longipes occurs, which in some morphological details is convergent with Microjassa (see fig. 7). It seems justified to deduct from this apparent vicariance of these forcefully clasping forms, that *Photis longipes* with more robust gnathopods is better adapted to cling to a holdfast among pebbles and gravel, whereas *Microjassa* with a slender body and a slender propodus in the second gnathopod preferably chooses sand with detritus. It should be emphasized that both species have the dactyls of second male gnathopod furnished distally with long setae.

Remarkable are the relations between samples 27 and 28: mutually they have very little in common. But the fauna of the strongly moving fronds of *Posidonia* at 12 m (sample 27) is quite similar to that of the superficial *Halopteris* (sample 23); *Posidonia*-rhizomes on the other hand (28) compare well with *Padina* on and among pebbles and boulders (sample 25, 2-4 m), equally rich in detritus.

Another series of samples on a slope of Isola Lachea is formed by 51-57. Sample 51 from sand at 35 m contains a mixed fauna rich in species being not very typical for a sand-fauna. Sample 52 (32 m, dark cave) and 55 (10 m, shadowy niche) share Gammaropsis sp. and Phtisica marina; 53 (32 m, Cystoseira) and 54 (10 m, Udothea, Peyssonelia) Pseudoprotella phasma. The pairs of samples from the same depth (52/53 and 54/55) show very little correspondence. It should be noticed, that Gammaropsis cf. erythrophthalma preferably lives at 10 m, at 32 m, however, Gammaropsis n. sp. occurs. - Samples 56 and 57 at last are algal samples from shallow waters containing Elasmopus pocillimanus and Amphithoe ramondi, so mutually quite similar.

The series of samples 29-32 (Capo Molini, Catania) may be lumped into several groups: 29 comes from sand at 40 m and contains *Perioculodes*, *Metaphoxus*, and *Phtisica*, rather typical sand inhabitants. Samples 30/31 from algae at 25 and 35 m, respectively, have *Leucothoe spinicarpa*, *Phtisica marina*, and *Stenothoe tergestina* in common. Samples 32/33 from 7 and 4 m depth are characteristically shallow algae samples with *Dexamine spiniventris*, *Hyale schmidti*, *Pseudoprotella phasma*, *Pereionotus testudo*, and *Sunamphithoe pelagica*.

The last series embraces the samples 43-50 from

Capo Molini. Sample 43 comes from sand at a depth of 28 m containing Photis longipes and Ampelisca serraticaudata. Samples 46/48, from Cystoseira at 28 and 20 m contain Cressa dubia, Biancolina algicola, Pseudoprotella phasma and Lysianassa pilicornis. Samples 42/44 come from "sciaphilo" at 10 and 27 m, shadowy caves or niches; in common they possess Gammaropsis n. sp. and Phtisica marina, the same components as in 52/55 (see above). Samples 49/50 originate from Cystoseira taken at 18 and 3 m; the faunal composition is similar, yet the depths are too different to permit close resemblances. Caprella liparotensis abounds in the deep sample with 36%, in the shallow one it is represented by 13% only; Stenothoe gallensis, the shallow water species of the genus, represents 1% of the faunal spectre at 18 m, 17% at 3 m; Amphithee ramondi is present with 7% in both samples; finally Elasmopus pocillimanus amounts to 1% in the deeper sample, against 19% near the surface. It must be stressed that similarities between samples 49 and 50 from sunny Cystoseira are greater than those between 48 (Cystoseira dubia, shadowy, 20 m) and 49 at the same depth.

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In 1973 my husband, our friend Wim Vader (Tromsø) and myself travelled for the sake of the enlargement of the amphipod collection of the Veronese Natural History Museum; once more we enjoyed the hospitality of the Scammacca family and the kind aid of Prof. F. Furnari. Algae were identified by Drs. Giuseppe Furnari and Blasco Scammacca of Catania; the *Aglaophenia*-species present were identified by Dr. Armin Svoboda (Vienna). For information about the Pantopoda collected in the 1970-samples, see Krapp, 1973.

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Dr. G. KRAPP-SCHICKEL Zoologisches Forschungsinstitut und Museum Alexander Koenig Adenauerallee 150-164 53 Bonn 1 - B.R. Deutschland



Fig. 1 Lysianax bispinosus Della Valle, 1893, ?, from the type series (= ? Lysianassa pilicornis Heller, 1886 ?, cf. Krapp-Schickel, 1974). 1, Maxilla I, enlarged; 2, maxilla I, total view; 3, gnathopod II; 4, maxilliped; 5, gnathopod I; 6, lower lip; 7, second maxilla; 8, upper lip.



Fig. 2 Lysianax bispinosus Della Valle, 1893, ?, from the type series. 1, antennae; 2, pereiopod IV; 3, pereiopod III; 4, uropod III; 5, epimeral plate III; 6, telson.



Fig. 3 Lysianax bispinosus Della Valle, 1893, 9, from the type series.
 1, mandible, with extremity of palp enlarged; 2, pereiopod V; 3, pereiopod VI; 4, pereiopod
 VII.



Fig. 4 Panoploea minuta (Sars, 1882). 1-3, pereiopods V-VII; 4, lower lip; 5, epimeral plate III; 6, maxilla II; 7, maxilliped; 8, maxilla I of a specimen from Catania; 9, same of a specimen from Ganzirri (Messina).



Fig. 5 Photis longipes (Della Valle, 1893).
1, antennae; 2, maxilliped; 3, gnathopod I &; 4, upper lip; 5, lower lip; 6, gnathopod I ?;
7, gnathopod II ?.



Fig. 6 Photis longipes (Della Valle, 1893).

 1, last urosome segments with telson and uropods; 2, mandible; 3, pereiopod VII; 4, pereiopod IV 9; 5, pereiopod V; 6, maxilla I.

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Fig. 7 Top: Photis longipes (Della Valle, 1893), gnathopod II d. Bottom: Microjassa cumbrensis (Stebbing & Robertson, 1891), gnathopod II d.



Fig. 8 Homogeneity-diagram of a part of the 1970 samples. On the axes the samples numbers, at the intersections the values of the homogeneity of the sample pairs. Black: more than 45% homogeneity; hatched: 30-45%; white: less than 30%. Samples not cited in the figure did not yield values greater than 45% in any combination; in most cases the homogeneity values were inferior to 30%.



Fig. 9 Diagrammatical representation of the S.W.- slope of Isola Lachea (Catania). Depth in logarithmic scale. The numerals 23-28 refer to the corresponding samples (see list of samples). The connecting curves bring in evidence the homogeneity values of two compared samples based on their faunal composition.