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Marine benthic dinoflagellates - unveiling their worldwide biodiversity

By Mona Hoppenrath

Schweizerbart Science Vlg. Jul 2014, 2014. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 208x146x20 mm. Neuware - This publication presents the first summary of our knowledge of benthic dinoflagellate species. Dinoflagellates are important primary producers and symbionts, but, at the same time, also consumers and parasites. Species compositions of benthic habitats are quite distinct from those of planktonic habitats. Less than 10% of the approximately 2000 described extant dinoflagellate species appear to be benthic. They occur in different types of habitats (chapter II) and their morphology, their behavior, and some of their life cycles (chapter VI) seem to be well adapted to the benthic lifestyle. Information on their geographic distribution is still very limited and is compiled herein (chapter V). The study of harmful benthic dinoflagellates started in the late 1970s when it was suspected that a benthic species, later named *Gambierdiscus toxicus*, was responsible for ciguatera fish poisoning, a type of human poisoning linked to the consumption of certain species of tropical reef fish. As the number of ciguatera fish poisoning incidents increases, and the distribution of toxin producing benthic taxa seems to be expanding, detailed understanding of the species diversity and the ability to accurately identify them is becoming increasingly important...



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