

PARVOCALANUS CRASSIROSTRIS IN THE AEGEAN SEA: A NEW INVASIVE COPEPOD SPECIES

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Parvocalanus crassirostris (F. Dahl, 1894), a small-sized copepod (0.5mm), was found in Kalloni Gulf, a productive, semi-enclosed and shallow ecosystem of Lesbos island in the NE Aegean Sea. Samples were collected monthly with a 90µm net from July 2009 till June 2010. *P. crassirostris* presented considerable temporal and spatial heterogeneity and constituted an important part of the zooplankton community within the gulf. Its total abundance showed a progressively increasing trend from the open sea towards the interior part of the gulf, particularly in the stations located near the river mouths. This is the first record for this species in the Aegean Sea.