

## RESUMO

O macrozooplâncton da Zona Econômica Exclusiva do Nordeste do Brasil ( $7^{\circ}28'56''\text{S}$  -  $34^{\circ}32'45''\text{W}$  ;  $7^{\circ}30'30''\text{S}$  -  $34^{\circ}29'08''\text{W}$ ) foi estudado a fim de determinar sua diversidade e distribuição. As amostras foram coletadas em 44 estações em 31/01 a 07/02/97 (NEII) e de 11 a 16/05/98 (NEIII), pelo navio oceanográfico Antares da Marinha do Brasil. Foram realizados arrastos oblíquos com rede tipo bongo (300 e 500 $\mu\text{m}$  de abertura de malha), acopladas com fluxômetro digital, numa velocidade de 2 a 2,5 nós e profundidade de 200m à superfície. As amostras foram fixadas em formaldeído a 4% e tamponada com água do mar. Foram identificadas 105 espécies. Copepoda foi o grupo mais abundante do macrozooplâncton. Dentre eles, *Undinula vulgaris* foi a espécie dominante. A densidade total para o NEII variou de 3,97 a 258,53  $\text{org.m}^{-3}$  (para a rede de 500 $\mu\text{m}$ ) e de 10,78 a 540,46  $\text{org.m}^{-3}$  (para a rede de 300 $\mu\text{m}$ ); durante o NEIII, de 3,61 a 76,38  $\text{org.m}^{-3}$  (rede de 500 $\mu\text{m}$ ) e, de 21,2 a 358,01  $\text{org.m}^{-3}$  (rede de 300 $\mu\text{m}$ ). Crustacea e Chaetognatha foram muito frequentes, seguidos em ordem decrescente por Cnidaria, Teleostei (ovos e larvas), Mollusca, Annelida, Chordata e Protozoa. A diversidade específica durante o NEII variou de 0,591 a 3,437  $\text{bits. ind.}^{-1}$  (rede de 500 $\mu\text{m}$ ) e de 0,648 a 4,037  $\text{bits.ind.}^{-1}$  (rede de 300 $\mu\text{m}$ ); durante o NEIII de, 0,503 a 3,141  $\text{bits. ind}^{-1}$  (rede de 500 $\mu\text{m}$ ) e, de 0,676 a 4,505  $\text{bits. ind}^{-1}$  (para a rede de 300 $\mu\text{m}$ ). Durante o NEII a equitabilidade variou de 0,373 a 0,960 (rede de 500 $\mu\text{m}$ ) e, de 0,279 a 1,0 (rede de 300 $\mu\text{m}$ ); durante o NEIII de 0,267 a 0,967 (rede de 500 $\mu\text{m}$ ) e, 0,261 a 0,934 (rede de 300 $\mu\text{m}$ ). Os baixos valores de diversidade e equitabilidade ocorreram devido à dominância de *Undinula vulgaris* e *Calanopia americana*, contudo, foi observada uma boa distribuição entre as espécies. A análise cofenética não revelou formação de grupos de Copepoda para a área estudada.

## ABSTRACT

The macrozooplankton from the Economic Exclusive Zone of Northeastern Brazil ( $7^{\circ}28'56''\text{S}$  -  $34^{\circ}32'45''\text{W}$  ;  $7^{\circ}30'30''\text{S}$  -  $34^{\circ}29'08''\text{W}$ ) was studied to assess its diversity and distribution. Samples were collected at 44 stations from 31/01 to 07/02/92 (NE-II) and from 11 to 16/05/98 (NE-III) by the Oceanographic Ship Antares from the Brazilian Navy. A bongo net (300 and 500  $\mu\text{m}$  mesh size) was hauled obliquely at a speed of 2 to 2.5 knots from a depth of 200m to surface. A digital flowmeter was fitted onto the opening of the net. Samples were preserved in a 4% buffered formalin/seawater solution. A total of 104 species were identified. Copepoda was the most abundant group in the macrozooplankton, and in most samples outranked *Undinula vulgaris*. Total density during the NE-II varied from 3.97 to 258.53  $\text{org.m}^{-3}$  (500  $\mu\text{m}$  mesh size net) and from 10.78 to 540.46  $\text{org.m}^{-3}$  (300 $\mu\text{m}$  mesh size net); and during the NE-III from 3.61 to 76.38  $\text{org.m}^{-3}$  (500  $\mu\text{m}$  mesh size net) and from 21.2 to 358.01  $\text{org.m}^{-3}$  (300 $\mu\text{m}$  mesh size net). Most frequent were Crustacea and Chaetognatha followed in decreasing order by Cnidaria, Teleostei (eggs and larvae), Mollusca, Annelida, Chordata and Protozoa. Species diversity during the NE-II varied from 0.591 to 3.437  $\text{ind.bits}^{-1}$  (500  $\mu\text{m}$  mesh size net) and from 0.648 to 4.037  $\text{bits.ind}^{-1}$  (300 $\mu\text{m}$  mesh size net); and during the NE-III from 0.503 to 3.141  $\text{bits.ind}^{-1}$  (500  $\mu\text{m}$  mesh size net) and from 0.676 a 4.505  $\text{bits.ind}^{-1}$  (300 $\mu\text{m}$  mesh size net). During NE-II evenness varied from 0.373 to 0.960 (500  $\mu\text{m}$  mesh size net) and from 0.279 to 1.0 (300  $\mu\text{m}$  mesh size net); and during NE-III from 0.267 to 0.967 (500  $\mu\text{m}$  mesh size net) and from 0.261 to 0.934 (300  $\mu\text{m}$  mesh size net). Low diversity and evenness were caused by peaks of *Undinula vulgaris* and *Calanopia americana*, although it was observed a good species distribution. No Copepoda groups were formed to the area by cluster analysis.