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Colonisation of Epipellic Diatoms on the Littoral Sediments of İzmit Bay

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Abstract: Seasonal variations in the composition, density and diversity of the epipellic diatom assemblages were investigated monthly from March, 1999, to September, 2000, at 8 sampling sites chosen in the littoral of İzmit Bay. The main physical and chemical parameters, which affected species composition and density, were also measured on every sampling date. During the study period, 3 centric and 41 pennate diatoms were recorded in the epipellic diatom flora of the bay. *Achnanthes Bory* spp., *Amphora exigua* W.Greg. and *Navicula tripunctata* (O.Müll.) Bory were dominant in terms of frequency and density. In general, the bay showed a small species diversity in epipellic diatoms (annual mean 1.46 ± 0.44 bits ind⁻¹). In addition to marine diatoms, freshwater species were also recorded in the epipellic diatom assemblages.

Key Words: Epipellic diatom, density, species diversity, İzmit Bay

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