

BIO-DIVERSITY AND BIO-SYSTEMATIC OF FREE-LIVING MARINE NEMATODE FAUNA ARABIAN SEA OF PAKISTAN

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Abstract

Several surveys were made along the coast line of Pakistan which is 527 nautical miles long extending from Sir Creek on the Indian side to Gawadar Bay on the Iranian border. About 123 species and 104 genera of free-living marine nematodes were found in the coastal waters of northern Arabian Sea. This marine fauna was found distributed among 35 families, 6 suborders, 4 orders, 2 subclasses, and one class from taxonomic point of view. Out of these one genus and 33 species are new to science while 63 species were found as new records from Pakistan. During these studies International collaboration was developed with the two renowned institutions of UK and Finland while national collaboration was made with the Centre of Excellence of Marine Biology and Marine Reference Collection and Resource Centre, University of Karachi.