

SAZHINA, L.I. – 2006. **Breeding, growth rates, and production of marine copepods.** Universities Press, Hyderabad, India. 160 pp. ISBN 81 7371 438 X PB (translated from Russian).

This monograph, resulting from the translation to English of an original work by L.I. Sazhina (1987), presents an extended body of information regarding copepod growth and production for a wide range of ecosystems, including regions of the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans, and the Mediterranean and Black Seas. The monograph offers precious and unique data on fecundity of 85 copepod species, and a detailed study of the life cycle of 29 species.

The work is presented in 6 independent chapters, one methodological, one introductory, 3 presenting data on fecundity, somatic growth and metabolism of marine copepods, respectively, and finally, a short summary chapter.

Special mention should be made of the valuable introduction regarding copepod life cycles and reproduction, presenting a summary of information dispersed in the scientific literature. Actually, this section gives consistence to the monograph, which would not be much different from a collection of independent articles without it. However, the main contribution of the monograph is found in the extraordinary amount of data compiled, many on

rare species, which otherwise would not be accessible for non-Russian-speaking readers. I would particularly stress the relevance of the chapters about naupliar growth and metabolism, on which we lack a profound knowledge that would greatly contribute to the progress of marine sciences.

There are, however, some weak points in the monograph. One is related to the year of the original publication of the study (1987), which means that the approach is sometimes obsolete. Additionally, the methodological chapter is too short, presenting only basic information and lacking many details on the methods used. I assume this is the obvious result of the consolidation of data from many different cruises. Finally, I miss a thoughtful discussion putting the information together in a general context, and discussing it from a wider perspective.

In summary, I find that the monograph is very useful for zooplankton ecologists avid for data for modelling or for depicting general secondary production patterns in the oceans.

The initiative and effort behind this translation series is praiseworthy, and I hope it will continue with other relevant studies from Russian literature (and that of other countries).

ALBERT CALBET
Institut de Ciències del Mar - CSIC