PRIMARY RESEARCH PAPER



# The influence of upwelling on the diversity and distribution of marine shrimp (Penaeoidea and Caridea) in two tropical coastal areas of southeastern Brazil

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Abstract Two coastal locations situated inside and outside an upwelling area were investigated to assess the influence of environmental factors on the structure of marine shrimp assemblages. The locations were Macaé in the state of Rio de Janeiro (RJ), influenced by upwelling from Cabo Frio (RJ), and Ubatuba in the state of São Paulo, with no upwelling. Samples were collected monthly with trawl nets, in three sites in each location at depths of 5–20 m. The relationship between species abundance and environmental factors was tested by redundancy analysis. The total of 148,266 shrimp captured (102,832 from Macaé and 45,434 from Ubatuba) included 15 species, 13 genera, and 7 families. The caridean Periclimenes paivai was collected for the first time on the RJ coast, expanding its known geographical distribution. Higher richness and  $J'$  and  $H'$  values were obtained in the location under upwelling influence (Macaé). Environmental

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R. C. da Costa e-mail: rccosta@fc.unesp.br variables (granulometric composition and organicmatter content of sediment, bottom temperature, and salinity) were associated with the abundance of shrimp. Our results suggest that sediment type and temperature are among the most important variables affecting seasonal distribution of the species. However, other factors such as intraspecific migration might have also influenced the observed patterns.

Keywords Shrimp community - Biodiversity - RDA · Macaé · Ubatuba

## Introduction

Coastal upwelling systems are usually the result of horizontal differences in the surface layer of the ocean, driven by the wind. Thus, denser and colder water, usually rich in nutrients, is transported to the surface, Frandling editor: Vasilis Valavanis replacing the warmer water, mostly poor in nutrients

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(Lehmann & Myrberg, [2008](#page-14-0)). Upwellings are the physical processes that most affect the marine life where they occur (Merino  $&$  Monreal-Gómez, [2009](#page-14-0)). Although upwelling areas occupy only 1% of the ocean surface, they contribute about 20% of the world fisheries productivity (Cury et al., [2000](#page-13-0)). In Brazil, this phenomenon can be observed in seven locations along the southern and southeastern coast (Vitória, São Tomé, Cabo Frio, São Sebastião, Santa Catarina, Santa Marta, and Rio Grande do Sul) and is most intense off Cabo Frio on the coast of Rio de Janeiro state (RJ) (Coelho-Souza et al., [2012\)](#page-13-0).

The South Atlantic oceanographic circulation has two main water currents: one from the north (Brazil Current), which carries tropical waters characterized by high salinity and temperature (TW;  $T > 20^{\circ}C, S > 36$ ), and another from the south (Malvinas or Falkland Current), which transports subantarctic waters and is characterized by low salinity and temperature (SAW;  $T<15^{\circ}$ C,  $S<34$ ) (Castro-Filho & Miranda, [1998](#page-13-0)). Between 30 and  $46^{\circ}$ S latitudes, there is a confluence of these currents, originating a water mass called the South Atlantic Central Water (SACW;  $T < 18^{\circ}$ C,  $S < 36$ ). During certain times of the year, depending both on current and wind intensity (Castro-Filho et al., [1987](#page-13-0)), horizontal and vertical changes and seasonal mixing between different water masses may occur. This mixing is possible even in coastal areas that are not directly influenced by upwelling (Odebrecht & Castello, [2001](#page-14-0)), such as off Ubatuba.

The Ubatuba coastal area has a low coastal plain, with a coastline consisting of small isolated massifs and promontories of the Serra do Mar terminal spurs (Ab'Sáber, [1955](#page-12-0)). This geomorphology results in a strongly indented coastline with many inlets, which, due to their configuration, are semiconfined (Mahiques, [1995\)](#page-14-0). Ubatuba is an oligomesotrophic location, i.e., with moderate amounts of chlorophyll-a (Vega-Pérez, [1993](#page-14-0)). Chlorophyll levels increase particularly during the summer, generally when the intrusion of the SACW occurs.

In general, an upwelling results in transport of nutrients (especially phosphorus and nitrogen) trapped in the lower layers up to the euphotic zone, directly influencing primary productivity (Odebrecht & Castello, [2001;](#page-14-0) Gaeta & Brandini, [2006](#page-13-0)). The increase in primary productivity can exert a strong influence on the zooplankton and also on the benthic communities, since benthic organisms can use the debris generated by the higher productivity in the euphotic zone (Mann & Lazier, [1996](#page-14-0); Sumida et al., [2005](#page-14-0)).

Since the Cabo Frio upwelling is responsible for a high degree of biological enrichment, it is of crucial importance for the entire biological community and consequently for the local fishery (Bakun & Parrish, [1990](#page-12-0); Franchito et al., [2008](#page-13-0)). The local fishery is focused in fishes as the Brazilian sardine [Sardinella brasiliensis (Steindachner, 1879)], the skipjack tuna [Katsuwonus pelamis (Linnaeus, 1758)], and some tuna species (Thunnus spp) and also in penaeidae shrimps (Haimovici et al., [2007\)](#page-13-0). Besides its economic importance in fisheries, shrimps represent a link between their main food sources (organic-matter detritus, small benthic invertebrates, and biofilm) (Branco, [2005](#page-12-0)) and pelagic predators such as fishes, cephalopods, swimming crabs, and even marine birds (Stevens et al., [1984](#page-14-0); Dall et al., [1990](#page-13-0); Bugoni & Vooren, [2004\)](#page-12-0).

The impact of shrimp fishing in coastal locations has caused significant losses in the biomass and biodiversity of non-consolidated environments (Pauly et al, [2002](#page-14-0); Castilho et al., [2008](#page-12-0)) due to the use of fine-meshed bottom trawl nets. This type of fishing encompasses high levels of bycatch, disturbance of the seabed, and severe impacts on the benthic community (Kaiser & Spencer, [1996](#page-14-0); Watling & Norse, [1998\)](#page-14-0). The lack of knowledge about diversity and abundance, mainly about those assemblages targeted by fishing fleets, decreases the efficiency of measures to protect the stocks of commercially important species (Castilho et al., [2008](#page-12-0)).

This study investigated how changes in environmental parameters can influence the composition and abundance of shrimps (Penaeoidea and Caridea) in two locations of the Brazilian coast, located within (Macaé, RJ) and outside (Ubatuba, SP) the Cabo Frio upwelling area, by means of multivariate analysis. We worked under the hypothesis that locations influenced by different intensities of SACW upwelling may show marked differences in the distribution, abundance, and composition of their assemblages.

## Materials and methods

#### Shrimp sampling

Samples were collected in tropical locations of Brazil's southeast coast: Macaé (Rio de Janeiro State, 22° 37'S and 041°78'W) and Ubatuba (São Paulo State, 23°27'S

and  $0.45^{\circ}02'$ W) (Fig. 1). Three different sites were sampled monthly, in order to minimize the possible effect of local trends in each location. Samples were collected during the day in the two locations concomitantly, from July 2010 through June 2011.

The same type of commercial fishing boat was used for all sampling. Both vessels were 10 m long, equipped with two otter-trawl nets with 5-m door openings, mesh size 20 mm and 18 mm in the cod end. One trawl at each of the three sampling sites was performed in each location, for 1 h at 2 knots, always from shallower (5 m) to deeper (20 m) water. Thus, an area of 37,000 m<sup>2</sup> was trawled or 111,000 m<sup>2</sup> per month in each study location.

Due to the high number of individuals captured in each trawl and considering the different body sizes of the three more abundant species, Xiphopenaeus kroyeri (Heller, 1862), Artemesia longinaris Spence Bate, 1888, and Pleoticus muelleri (Spence Bate, 1888), distinct random subsamples were taken, of 500, 150, and 300 grams, respectively (accuracy  $= 0.01$  g). The number of individuals was counted for each subsample. The total number of individuals in each trawl was estimated from the subsample data and the total biomass. When the biomass of these species did not exceed the weight set for the subsample, all individuals were counted. For the less-abundant species, all the individuals collected were counted.



Fig. 1 Map indicating the sampling sites for each study location. PB Barra Beach, PI Imbetiba Beach, PC Cavaleiros Beach, UBM Ubatumirim, IT Itamambuca, PG Praia Grande

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## Environmental variables

The following measurements were taken (accuracy  $= 0.1$ ) at all sampling sites: bottom water temperature (BT) (digital thermometer,  $^{\circ}$ C) and bottom salinity (BS) (specific optical refractometer). Water samples were obtained using a Van Dorn bottle. Sediment samples were collected in each season for the analysis of the granulometric fraction (Phi) and organic matter (OM), using a Van Veen grab (area:  $0.06 \text{ m}^2$ ). The sediment granulometric composition was expressed on the Phi scale  $(=-\log_2 \text{ grain})$ diameter, mm) (Tucker, [1988](#page-14-0)). For organic-matter analysis, sediment subsamples were incinerated at  $500^{\circ}$ C and then weighed again (Byers et al., [1978](#page-12-0)). Procedures related to granulometry and organic-matter content followed Costa et al. [\(2007](#page-13-0)).

#### Data analysis

Student's t test was used to test similarities ( $P < 0.05$ ) in all environmental variables, by season (January– March = summer; April–June = autumn; July–  $September = winter$ ;  $October-December = spring)$ and between the sampling locations.

The abundance (total number of individuals) was calculated for each season. The relative abundance was calculated for the entire sampling period  $(RA = number of individuals of one species/total)$ number of individuals of all species).

The Shannon–Wiener index (Pielou, [1966](#page-14-0)) was used to determine the assemblage diversity index  $(H')$ , species richness, and evenness  $(J')$  in each season for each study location.

The original matrix was reduced for the multivariate analysis, eliminating the species present in less than  $10\%$  of the samples (Cuesta et al.,  $2006$ ; De Léo & Pires-Vanin, [2006](#page-13-0)), that is, present in 4 trawls at least.

The cluster analysis was performed among species (R mode) using the Bray–Curtis similarity index. The connection method used was UPGMA (Unweighted— Pair Group Averaging), which best reflects the original matrix affinities in the dendrogram (Krebs, [1989\)](#page-14-0).

The relationship between species abundance and environmental factors was tested using the redundancy analysis (RDA) (Ter Braak, [1996](#page-14-0)). This analysis directly estimates the power of a relationship between two variable matrices. The first matrix is represented by environmental factors (temperature and salinity of the water, granulometry, and organic-matter content of the sediment) and the second is represented by all shrimp species, allowing the selection of environmental variables that best describe the distribution of species. This analysis was first conducted separately for each location, in order to identify environmental variables that affect the distribution of shrimp in each location. Then, the analysis was conducted for pooled data from the two locations.

#### Results

#### Environmental variables

Temperatures were lower  $(P = 0.001)$  and more homogeneous in all seasons in Macaé (Fig. [2\)](#page-4-0) than in Ubatuba. Temperature in Macaé ranged from 19.50 to 22.91 °C (21.97  $\pm$  1.21 °C) and in Ubatuba from 20 to 28.83 °C (23.7  $\pm$  2.84 °C). Bottom salinities were also more homogeneous in Macaé, but were higher  $(P<0.001)$  in all seasons (Fig. [2](#page-4-0)) compared to Ubatuba. The mean BS ranged from 35.66 to 38.0 ppt (36.9  $\pm$  0.8 ppt) in Macaé and from 30.33 to 35.66 ppt (33.5  $\pm$  1.8 ppt) in Ubatuba.

The organic-matter content of sediment was higher in Macaé ( $P < 0.001$ ), ranging from 4.51 to 11.79%  $(9.03 \pm 3.48\%)$ , and in Ubatuba from 2.19 to 3.79%  $(2.81 \pm 3.16\%)$ . The sediment in Macaé was composed predominantly of very fine sand, silt, and clay (with Phi values ranging from 3 to 5), and that in Ubatuba was composed mainly of fine and very fine sand (with Phi values ranging from 2 to 4). For the entire sampling period, Macaé had finer sediments (higher Phi values) ( $P < 0.001$ ), composed mainly of silt and clay  $(4.22 \pm 0.84)$ ; in Ubatuba the sediment was composed mainly of fine sand  $(2.59 \pm 1.32)$ (Fig. [2](#page-4-0)).

#### Species composition and abundance

We estimated a total of 148,266 individuals (102,832 in Macaé and 45,434 in Ubatuba) captured, including 15 species and 13 genera, from 7 families: Penaeidae, Solenoceridae, and Sicyoniidae (superfamily Penaeoidea) and Palaemonidae, Alpheidae, Hippolytidae, and Lysmatidae (infraorder Caridea) (Table [1\)](#page-5-0). Most species were collected in both locations, except for

<span id="page-4-0"></span>



Sicyonia laevigata Stimpson, 1871, Periclimenes paivai Chace, 1969, and Lysmata sp., which were captured only in Macaé, and Leander paulensis Ortmann, 1897, captured only in Ubatuba.

The shrimp assemblage in Ubatuba was heavily dominated by X. kroyeri, which showed a relative abundance (RA) of 84.84% (Table [1](#page-5-0)). The second most abundant species in this location was

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RA relative abundance

Nematopalaemon schmitti (Holthuis, 1950)  $(RA = 4.41\%)$ . In contrast, in Macaé, three penaeid species together comprised 96.01% of the total abundance: A. longinaris ( $RA = 49.81\%$ ), X. kroyeri  $(AR = 26.41\%)$ , and *P. muelleri* (*RA = 19.79%*). The caridean with the highest abundance (absolute and relative) was Exhippolysmata oplophoroides (Holthuis, [1](#page-5-0)948)  $(RA = 2.11\%)$  (Table 1).

The highest total shrimp abundance was recorded in Macaé (35.32%) in spring, followed by winter (25.37%) (Table [1](#page-5-0)). In Ubatuba, the highest total shrimp abundance occurred in winter (35.32%), followed by autumn (23.76%).

#### Assemblage parameters

During the study period, the richness was 15 species, including 14 in Macaé and 12 in Ubatuba. The number of species in both locations was equal (12) in winter and autumn (10). However, more species were caught in Macaé than in Ubatuba in the spring (13 and 10, respectively) and summer (13 and 9, respectively) (Fig. [3](#page-7-0)).

Macaé showed a higher diversity index and evenness ( $H' = 1.19$  and  $J' = 0.45$ ) compared to Ubatuba  $(H' = 0.70$  and  $J' = 0.28$ ). This was observed in all seasons, but the periods with higher values differed between locations. In Macaé, the highest values were observed in winter  $(H' = 1.31$  and  $J' = 0.53)$  and spring  $(H' = 1.22$  and  $J' = 0.47)$ , while in Ubatuba higher values were recorded in the summer ( $H' = 0.72$ ) and  $J' = 0.32$ ) and autumn ( $H' = 0.68$  and  $J' = 0.29$ ) (Fig. [3](#page-7-0)).

## Multivariate analysis

The Cluster analysis generated two groups in Macaé. The first group was composed of the more abundant species, with 40% similarity (Sicyonia dorsalis Kingsley, 1878, N. schmitti, E. oplophoroides, P. muelleri, X. kroyeri, and A. longinaris); the second one was composed of the less-abundant species [Litopenaeus schmitti (Burkenroad, 1936), Alpheus intrinsecus Bate, 1888, Farfantepenaeus paulensis (Pérez-Farfante, 1967), and F. brasiliensis (Latreille, 1817)] with 30% similarity. In Ubatuba, nearly all species formed a single group with a 10% similar distribution, except X. kroyeri, which remained separate from all other species.

If we consider the most abundant species (A. longinaris, X. kroyeri, and P. muelleri), a group with 85% similarity was formed in Macaé, and A. longinaris and X. kroyeri were the closest to each other. In Ubatuba, A. longinaris and P. muelleri showed the greatest similarity among the species (50%) and they were not related to *X. kroyeri* (Fig. [4\)](#page-8-0).

When we analyzed each location separately, the RDA did not identify any significant environmental variable ( $P < 0.05$ ). Therefore, we used the data matrix formed by the grouping of species and environmental variables of the two locations together.

The relationship between shrimp species abundance and environmental variables shown by RDA is represented by two axes (Table [2](#page-8-0); Fig. [5](#page-9-0)). The first axis of the triplot graph explained 77% of the total variance of the data, while the second axis explained 17%. With forward selection and Monte Carlo permutation tests (999 permutations), the RDA showed that all the environmental variables (BT, BS, OM, and Phi) explained a significant amount  $(P < 0.05)$  of the data variation, considering species abundance (explained variance  $= 0.95, 0.99, -0.96,$ and  $-0.95$ , respectively).

According to the RDA, the abundance of A. longinaris, P. muelleri, L. schmitti, and the carideans N. schmitti and E. oplophoroides showed a directly proportional correlation with BS, OM, and Phi, while the abundances of X. kroyeri, F. paulensis, F. brasiliensis, and Rimapenaeus constrictus (Stimpson, 1874) correlated inversely with these variables. The bottom temperature (BT) showed a directly proportional correlation with the abundances of X. kroyeri, F. paulensis, F. brasiliensis, and R. constrictus.

### **Discussion**

#### Environmental variables

Macaé is influenced by the SACW during most of the year, but more intensely during the spring and summer (Stech et al., [1995\)](#page-14-0). Off Ubatuba, during the summer, the SACW also penetrates the bottom layer over the continental shelf, reaching the coastal area (Pires-Vanin & Matsuura, [1993](#page-14-0); Costa et al., [2007](#page-13-0); Castilho et al., [2012\)](#page-12-0). These authors explained that during winter in Ubatuba, the temperature distribution in the coastal zone becomes homogeneous with the <span id="page-7-0"></span>Fig. 3 Means and standard deviation for localities and seasons, in relation to species richness, Shannon– Wiener diversity index  $(H')$ , and evenness  $(J')$ 



regression of the SACW, and the entire location is covered with water between 20 and 25°C. However, off Macaé, bottom temperatures lower than  $20^{\circ}$ C are observed, even in winter and autumn.

Larger amounts of OM in sediments of the upwelling location (Macaé) were also observed in studies comparing Cabo Frio and Ubatuba (Sumida et al.,  $2005$ ; De Léo & Pires-Vanin,  $2006$ ). This is probably a result of the higher primary productivity due to upwelling, since part of the OM generated is

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transferred to the benthos (Sumida et al., [2005\)](#page-14-0). The amount of freshwater discharged by rivers onto the inner shelf at the upwelling location is scarce, and the nutrient enrichment depends on the pumping of the SACW from the slope (Acha et al., [2004\)](#page-12-0).

The decrease in the mean BS in both locations, especially during the summer, can also be related to the influence of the SACW. Besides the decrease in temperature, salinities are also lower (Castro-Filho et al., [1987\)](#page-13-0). Additionally, both locations have only

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Fig. 4 Dendrogram obtained from cluster analysis (UPGMA, Bray–Curtis, R mode), showing the groups of shrimp species sampled in Macaé and Ubatuba for the study period

Table 2 Results of redundancy analysis (RDA) between the environmental variables and the abundance of shrimp species collected in Macaé and Ubatuba, from July 2010 through June 2011

Environmental variables	Explained variance (RDA1)	Explained variance (RDA 2)		
Bottom temperature	0.951	$-0.306$	0.543	$0.002*$
Bottom salinity	$-0.998$	$-0.057$	0.645	$0.001*$
Organic matter	$-0.980$	$-0.196$	0.626	$0.001*$
Phi	$-0.966$	$-0.257$	0.621	$0.002*$

Proportion explained: RDA  $1 = 76.88$  % and RDA  $2 = 17.47\%$ 

\* Significant values ( $P < 0.005$ )

small estuaries (Costa & Fransozo, [1999](#page-13-0); Acha et al., [2004\)](#page-12-0). The highest fluctuations in salinity at Ubatuba may be related to differences of rainfall between locations. The average annual rainfall of Ubatuba is almost double of that recorded in Macaé (2552 and 1126 mm, respectively) which may have influenced the observed values of salinity (rainfall data sourced from [www.climatedata.org](http://www.climatedata.org)).

## Species composition and abundance

This study characterized the richness and abundance of shrimp up to 20 m of unconsolidated substrate. The largest fishing effort in southeastern Brazil occurs at these depths, due to the presence of the seabob shrimp X. kroyeri, one of the main fisheries resources of the region (Costa et al., [2007](#page-13-0); Heckler et al., [2014](#page-13-0)). Considering the shallow depths sampled in this study, the fauna of penaeoid shrimps caught in both locations was well represented. Off Ubatuba, we caught 8 of the 15 species recorded for the coast of São Paulo state (Costa et al.,  $2000$ ; De Léo & Pires-Vanin,  $2006$ ). Off Macaé, we caught 9 of the 17 species listed along the coast of Rio de Janeiro state (D'Incao, [1995](#page-13-0)). In the present study, six species considered target of artisanal and industrial trawls in southeastern coast of Brazil were recorded (A. longinaris, P. muelleri, X. kroyeri, F. paulensis, F. brasiliensis, and L. schmitti).

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Fig. 5 Triplots from the redundancy analysis (RDA) illustrating the relationship between the significant environmental variables ( $P \le 0.05$ ) and abundance of shrimp species sampled in Macaé and Ubatuba, from July 2010 through June 2011. BT bottom temperature, BS bottom salinity, OM organic-matter content; Xk Xiphopenaeus kroyeri; Pm Pleoticus muelleri; Al

Some species of deeper regions were not found during our survey, e.g. Parapenaeus americanus Rathbun, 1901, usually found at depths of 50 to 70 m (Costa et al. [2000](#page-13-0); De Léo & Pires-Vanin [2006](#page-13-0)). Records of other species as Solenocera necopina Burkenroad, 1939, S. atlantidis Burkenroad, 1939, and Mesopenaeus tropicalis (Bouvier, 1905) were considered atypical at Ubatuba (Pires, [1992\)](#page-14-0), and yet Sicyonia parri (Burkenroad, 1934) can be considered rare (Nakagaki et al., [1995](#page-14-0); Costa et al., [2000](#page-13-0)) and were not found in recent works (Furlan et al., [2013](#page-13-0)) as well as in the present survey.

The present results showed greater shrimp abundances at Macaé (102,832 in Macaé and 45,434 in Ubatuba). Comparisons about the amount of shrimp fishing boats between locations are not possible due to lack of reliable and standardized estimates. Boats from other regions of Brazil often come to these locations, making it even more difficult to compare the fishing effort between Macaé and Ubatuba. Penaeid fisheries occur on the entire Brazilian coast, but Rio de Janeiro State has the highest fishery productivity of this region (IBAMA, [2007\)](#page-14-0). Regardless of this increased production occurs due to a possible large fishing effort; in the present study, most shrimps were collected at Macaé in the same way, indicating that this greatest abundance is not a fishing effect.

Periclimenes paivai was recorded for the first time off the coast of Rio de Janeiro, which expands its known geographical distribution. According to

Artemesia longinaris, Sd Sicyonia dorsalis, Fb Farfantepenaeus brasiliensis, Fp Farfantepenaeus paulensis, Ls Litopenaeus schmitti, Rc Rimapenaeus constrictus; Eo Exhippolysmata oplophoroides, Ns Nematopalaemon schmitti. Triangle and circle correspond to the months of sampling in Macaé and Ubatuba, respectively

Ramos-Porto & Coelho [\(1998](#page-14-0)), this caridean occurred between the states of Santa Catarina and São Paulo. In general, shrimps of the genus Periclimenes Costa, 1844 are commonly found associated with benthic hosts. However, P. paivai was, until now, the only one among Brazilian species of the genus found on scyphozoan hosts (Martinelli-Filho et al., [2008\)](#page-14-0). The aforementioned authors studied the shrimp associated with two scyphomedusae: Lychnorhiza lucerna Haeckel, 1880 and Chrysaora lactea Eschscholtz, 1829, both species distributed over the entire Brazilian coastline (Morandini et al., [2006](#page-14-0)). This fact enables the species occurring in northern regions of Rio de Janeiro, although it has not yet been registered.

The high abundance of A. longinaris and P. muelleri off Macaé compared to Ubatuba could be considered atypical, considering the tropical position of the location. These two species are subantarctic and hence indicative of the presence of cold water (Boschi, [1969,](#page-12-0) [1986;](#page-12-0) Gavio & Boschi, [2004;](#page-13-0) Fransozo et al., [2004;](#page-13-0) Costa et al., [2004,](#page-13-0) [2005](#page-13-0)). Both species are abundant in Argentina, where they are commercially important and represent the main components of the coastal marine food chains, as they are intensively predated by fishes (Boschi, [1963,](#page-12-0) [1969](#page-12-0), [1986\)](#page-12-0). Off the coast of São Paulo state, these two shrimps are captured mainly during SACW intrusions (Costa et al., [2005;](#page-13-0) Castilho et al., [2008](#page-12-0); Carvalho-Batista et al., [2011\)](#page-12-0). However, off Macaé, these species were

present in great abundance during all months of the study. This can be related with temperature conditions in this location (mean =  $20.7^{\circ}$ C), which are very similar to areas at higher latitudes and likely allow the two species to remain in Macaé coast throughout the year.

Sancinetti et al. [\(2014](#page-14-0)) hypothesized that a population of A. longinaris has become established on the northern coast of Rio de Janeiro state, which is possible due to the environmental conditions (low temperatures) and considering that individuals of this population migrate with the SACW to higher-latitude locations, such as Ubatuba. This may actually be the case, since genetic analyses performed on this species in the same locations confirmed the existence of gene flow (Carvalho-Batista et al., [2014\)](#page-12-0). This hypothesis could also be applied to P. muelleri. However, despite being collected throughout the year, the abundance of P. muelleri fluctuated more widely than that of A. longinaris during the study in Macaé, with peaks in winter and spring, whereas the abundance of A. longinaris was more uniform throughout the year. This finding concords with the observations of Costa et al. ([2005\)](#page-13-0), who suggested that A. longinaris is more eurythermal and tolerates higher temperature ranges compared to P. muelleri.

Artemesia longinaris has continuous recruitment off Macaé coast (Sancinetti et al., [2015\)](#page-14-0). On the other hand, Castilho et al. ([2007\)](#page-12-0), in a 5.5-year study in Ubatuba, found juveniles in low numbers during almost all months over the entire study period and interpreted recruitment as episodic, since there was no apparent correlation between the percentages of mature females and immature individuals. These results suggest that most of variations observed in abundance of A. *longinaris* in Macaé may be related to juvenile recruitment. Additionally, the upwelling greatly increases the primary production (Odebrecht & Castello,  $2001$ ; Gaeta & Brandini,  $2006$ ), so it is possible to hypothesize that Macaé has nursery function, not only for A. longinaris but also for other species. Studies investigating the juvenile recruitment of other species at this location are needed to clarify this hypothesis.

The highest abundance of X. kroyeri in the study period was observed in winter for both locations, which was similar to other studies (Fransozo et al., [2002;](#page-13-0) Castro et al., [2005](#page-12-0); Costa et al., [2007](#page-13-0)). The high abundance in winter may have been influenced by the reduction of fishing pressure during the annual closed season (IBAMA, [2008](#page-14-0)), from March through May, comprising most of the autumn.

Among the caridean shrimps sampled in this study, E. oplophoroides and N. schmitti were the most abundant species. The observed abundances were reversed, i.e., in Macaé (colder location) we collected more individuals of *E. oplophoroides* than those of *N*. schmitti, while in Ubatuba the opposite occurred. It is possible that N. schmitti is less tolerant to cold temperatures than E. oplophoroides. On the other hand, Fransozo et al. [\(2005](#page-13-0), [2009\)](#page-13-0) studied the distribution of these caridean shrimps in Ubatuba Bay and suggested that marine biogenic debris and land-derived material (shells, sticks, leaves, etc.) might be the key to explain the patchy distribution of these and other caridean shrimps. The biomass of land-derived bio-detritus might provide protection against predators as it creates environmental heterogeneity in soft-bottom habitats (Fransozo et al., [2009](#page-13-0)). However, no estimation of debris biomass was recorded by us.

#### Assemblage parameters

The two locations showed no great contrast in the number of species (14 in Macaé and 12 in Ubatuba). Similarly, De Léo & Pires-Vanin ([2006\)](#page-13-0) recorded 38 and 37 species (Cabo Frio and Ubatuba, respectively) when sampling the entire benthic megafauna deeper than 40 m. The greatest difference in species richness was observed in spring and summer, where Macaé showed a larger number of species. However, the presence of some species in low abundance, sometimes with only one individual collected (for example S. *laevigata*), provided this result. Although S. *laevi*gata and P. paivai were captured in Macaé and not in Ubatuba in this study, both species have been recorded for this location (Ramos-Porto & Coelho, [1998](#page-14-0); Costa et al., [2000\)](#page-13-0).

The diversity gradients are associated with several environmental variables, such as depth, temperature, OM (Cartes et al., [2008\)](#page-12-0), sediment type, and dissolved oxygen content (Dickinson, [1978](#page-13-0)), which influence the distribution and richness of the species. In assemblages at great depths, abundance peaks have been related to areas of high primary productivity (Billett et al., [2001;](#page-12-0) Ruhl & Smith, [2004](#page-14-0); Cartes et al., [2009\)](#page-12-0). Besides zooplankton, primary productivity

may also influence the distribution of benthic organisms: the relatively high zooplankton productivity resulting from this higher primary productivity transfers energy to the benthic compartments, mainly through fecal pellets and dead organisms (Gonzalez-Rodriguez et al., [1992;](#page-13-0) Valentin & Monteiro-Ribas, [1993\)](#page-14-0).

These above-mentioned factors may have influenced the higher diversity in Macaé, considering the increased primary productivity in the location, the finer sediments rich in OM, and favorable temperatures for some abundant species (A. longinaris and P. muelleri, for example). This relatively high diversity can be ascribed mainly to the local environmental factors, more than the actual latitudinal differences. In marine environments, the influence of latitude on diversity is less marked than in the terrestrial environment (Rex et al., [2000\)](#page-14-0), and the latitudinal difference between these two studied locations is less than  $1^\circ$ .

The constant occurrence of A. longinaris and P. muelleri in Macaé considerably increased the diversity index, considering that in addition to species richness, this index also considers abundance and evenness. In contrast, the lower index at Ubatuba occurred due to the high relative abundance of X. kroyeri, which comprised over 85% of the total shrimp collected in the location. Changes in the diversity index in both locations were affected mainly by the most abundant species (A. longinaris, X. kroyeri, and P. muelleri). The higher values coincide with the periods when these species had even temporal distributions.

#### Multivariate analysis

The distributions of the most abundant species (A. longinaris, X. kroyeri, and P. muelleri) were highly similar in Macaé, but not in Ubatuba. This is probably related to the environmental conditions, mainly the range of bottom temperature, allowing the three species to remain in Macaé year-round. For Ubatuba, A. longinaris and P. muelleri are found only in periods when the influence of low temperature is greater (Costa et al., [2004,](#page-13-0) [2005](#page-13-0)), and X. kroyeri inhabits the location year-round (Costa et al., [2007;](#page-13-0) Fransozo et al., [2002;](#page-13-0) Castro et al., [2005](#page-12-0)). For these reasons, these three species showed low similarity in Ubatuba. This is reinforced by the results obtained in the RDA, showing a preference for lower temperatures of A.

longinaris and P. muelleri and the opposite for X. kroyeri.

The main variables that affect the distribution of X. kroyeri in Ubatuba are the sediment type, salinity, and temperature, with high abundance of the species in areas characterized by muddy substrates and high salinity and temperature (Costa et al., [2007](#page-13-0)). In the present observations, those characteristics showed strong correlations with the abundance of this species (RDA). However, the analysis showed an inverse correlation between the abundance of X. kroyeri and salinity values, as well as phi values. This result of RDA can be explained by the ranges of the parameters observed in each location and the fact that more individuals of the species were captured in Ubatuba. Costa et al. [\(2007](#page-13-0)) observed higher abundances in salinities of 36–38 ppt. In the present study, the mean salinity in Macaé was 36.9 ppt, while in Ubatuba was 33.5 ppt. The same happened with phi values, since the species prefers values of 3–7 (Costa et al., [2007](#page-13-0)), and the mean phi observed in Macaé was 4:22, while in Ubatuba was 2.59.

For marine benthic species, distribution and abundance are limited mainly by the temperature, salinity, depth, texture of the sediment, and OM (Furlan et al., [2013\)](#page-13-0). These environmental variables have provided a significant amount of explanation for the distribution of the species (RDA), but it must be noted that a number of other environment features can influence the distribution of these organisms. The presence of heterogeneous substrate containing macroalgae, seagrass meadows, coral reefs, and hydroids represents an important feature in the environment for the presence of shrimps (Bauer, [1985a,](#page-12-0) [b;](#page-12-0) Costa et al., [2000](#page-13-0); Macia et al., [2004\)](#page-14-0). Many caridean species occur on microhabitats associated to the rocky shallow subtidal (Costa et al., [2000](#page-13-0)). However, the areas sampled in both studied locations are composed only of unconsolidated substrate with sandy or muddy sediments.

In the present study, both sampled locations comprised some species of tropical and subantarctic origin in the southwestern Atlantic Ocean. Despite the fact that sampled assemblages did not show great differences in richness and composition, it was possible to detect marked differences in the abundance of the species. In Macaé, we recorded great abundances of species with subtropical affinity (A. longinaris and P. muelleri), while in Ubatuba a tropicalrelated species (X. kroyeri) was the dominant species,

<span id="page-12-0"></span>resulting in greater values in the diversity indices for Macaé. Water temperature and sediment offered the most convincing explanation for the differences among the abundance patterns of species. However, it is important to take into account that other factors such as intraspecific migrations, competition, and predation may also influence this result. The present study provides important findings for supporting conservation actions, which should be distinct for each location, since in Macaé two species of economic interest are found in great abundances, often larger than those of X. kroyeri, the main exploited species in the state of São Paulo.

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