CRUSTACEANS ASSOCIATED AT MACROALGAE OF DIFFERENT MORFOFUNCTIONAL GROUPS FROM PERNAMBUCAN COAST, NORTHEAST BRAZIL

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The phytal is designated as an aquatic environment where macrophytes are used as substrate, food and even reproduction site for the associated fauna. This work aims to describe the associations of the crustaceans in the phytal with different morphofunctional groups of macroalgae, considering the following faunal descriptors: taxonomic composition, abundance, richness and density. Nine species of different macroalgae were collected in June and July, 2016, on beachrock reefs in the Enseada dos Corais Beach: *Sargassum* sp., *Ulva* sp., *Gracillaria* sp., *Padina* sp., *Bryopsis* sp., *Caulerpa racemosa*, *C. sertularioides*, *Halimeda opuntia*, and *Acanthophora spicifera*, which belong, respectively, to the morphofunctional groups: canopy, foliose, cortical, foliose corticated, filamentous, articulated calcareous and branched corticated. The macrofauna was composed of 27 taxa with 655 individuals. The greatest richness was recorded in *Acanthophora spicifera* (11 taxa), *Gracillaria* sp. (9 taxa) and *Sargassum* sp. (7 taxa). *Acanthonyx* sp., *Ampithoe* sp., *Cymodoce* sp., *Elasmopus* sp., *Epialtus* sp., *Erichsonella* sp., *Hansenium* sp. and *Chondrochelia* sp. were the dominant taxa. The different morphological characteristics of algae can directly influence the associated fauna. Many organisms use seaweeds as sites of protection, shelter and feeding. It is known that more branched algae tend to have a greater diversity of taxons. In the present study, the most complex macroalgae presented higher values of richness, abundance and diversity, corroborating with the results of several studies between the composition of the fauna and the morphological complexity of algae.

Palavras-chave: community of Crustaceans, Enseada dos Corais, phytal, seaweeds.