

Rhodolith and Seagrass associated bivalve assemblages from the Early Pleistocene of the Eastern Mediterranean

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The rich fossil molluscan faunas from the island of Rhodes (Greece) have yielded results regarding the paleobiodiversity, paleoecology and paleoenvironments of the Early Pleistocene of this part of the Eastern Mediterranean. Here, the bivalve assemblages associated with vegetation such as rhodoliths and seagrass are presented.

Bivalve communities are relatively diverse in the Kritika formation of the island of Rhodes, with a counting total of 88 species. Six of those species are found both in rhodolith and seagrass-seaweed beds, 24 in rhodolith beds (maärl) and 9 species in seagrass or seaweed beds. *Timoclea ovata* – *Parvicardium minimum* assemblage and *Spisula subtruncata* – *Anomia ephippium* assemblage are the most abundant in rhodolith beds. The *Timoclea ovata* – *Gouldia minima* assemblage is found within algae beds. Rhodolith beds yielded a higher taxonomic diversity with species from 17 families, whereas seagrass and seaweed beds contain species from 8 families in the studied material. *Striarca lactea* is present in all rhodolith associations although is much less abundant. *Corbula gibba* is also present in all of the assemblages with few specimens, which could be the result of mixing or storm events.