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Seasonal changes in biomass, growth rates and production of subantarctic calanoid copepods in the Bay of Morbihan, Kerguelen Islands

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Abstract The present study addresses the ecology of two dominant copepod species in the Bay of Morbihan, Kerguelen Archipelago. The biomass of the herbivore *Drepanopus pectinatus* (from 2 mg m⁻³ in winter up to 500 mg m⁻³ in summer) is tightly coupled to seasonal changes in chlorophyll *a* concentration in the region, whereas the biomass of the predatory euchaetiid *Para-euchaeta antarctica* increases during two distinct periods over the year: 250 mg m⁻³ in early summer, with the recruitment of the annual generation, and 100 mg m⁻³ in autumn, with the deposition of lipids as energy reserves in C5 stages and adults. The juvenile growth rates predicted by temperature-dependent models (0.09 day⁻¹) closely approximate those observed in *D. pectinatus* in summer, but are much greater than those observed in *P. antarctica* (from 0.001 to 0.04 day⁻¹ depending on developmental stages). This difference can be explained

by the reproductive strategies and trophic positions of the two species and may also result from the dependence of larval growth on energy reserves in *P. antarctica*. The production rates are five- and tenfold greater in juvenile stages than in adults, respectively, for *D. pectinatus* and *P. antarctica*. The secondary production by *D. pectinatus* is insufficient to support *P. antarctica* during winter, when the predatory species probably shifts to alternate prey. In summer the predation by *P. antarctica* accounts for only a minor part of the mortality estimated for *D. pectinatus* (from 20% to 60% depending on the examined station). At two of the three stations examined in the Bay of Morbihan, the production of *P. antarctica* could potentially support the dietary requirements of planktivorous seabirds in the region (~2,000 kg prey day⁻¹ for common diving petrels, *Pelecanoides urinatrix*, and ~90 kg prey day⁻¹ for rockhopper penguins, *Eudyptes chrysocome filholi*).

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Introduction

To date, relatively few studies have been carried out on the reproductive biology and ecology of copepods in subantarctic waters compared to high-latitude regions. However, the role of copepods in subpolar pelagic ecosystems is essential both quantitatively as the main component of the mesozooplankton and qualitatively as the major link of matter and energy between primary producers and large, carnivorous predators (Hopkins 1985; Falk-Petersen et al. 1990). In the subantarctic Kerguelen Islands (Fig. 1), the coastal mesozooplankton is dominated in summer by the endemic herbivorous copepod *Drepanopus pectinatus*, which produces four generations per year in the Bay of Morbihan and represents up to 99% of the abundance of the community (Razouls and Razouls 1988, 1990). In this extreme situation it is arguable that almost all the organic matter derived from the summer primary production is transferred to higher trophic levels via this single copepod species.

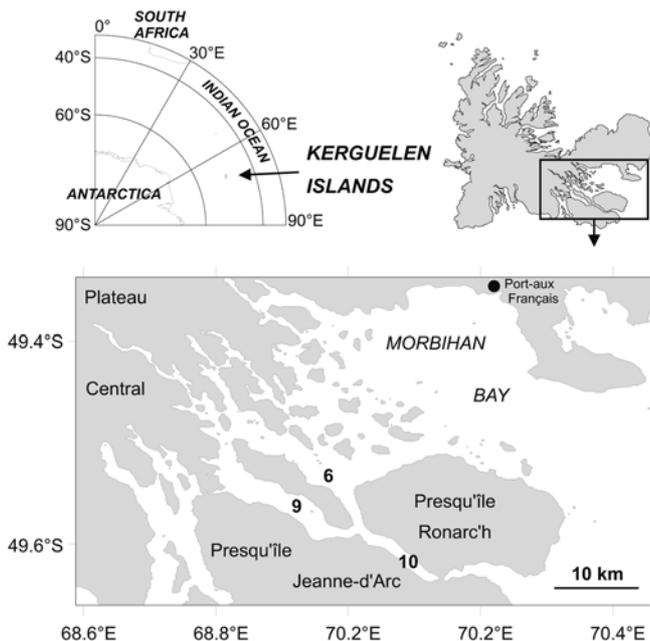


Fig. 1 Location of the sampling stations ST6, ST9 and ST10 in the Bay of Morbihan

The large-bodied, carnivorous, euchaetiid *Paraeuchaeta antarctica*, whose geographic distribution extends into the high Antarctic (Park 1994), is abundant in the southwestern part of the Bay of Morbihan, where the species is recognized as a true breeding population in the sheltered fjords (Alonzo et al. 2000a). Given the size range of its prey (Yen 1991), the main food source for the species in the field is most likely to be *D. pectinatus*. The ability of *P. antarctica* to feed on *D. pectinatus* was demonstrated experimentally (Alonzo et al. 2000b), and the congeneric species *Drepanopus forcipatus* was a major component of the gut content of *P. antarctica* around South Georgia (Øresland and Ward 1993). The importance of *D. pectinatus* as a food item remains to be evaluated by assessing the potential of its secondary production to sustain the predatory euchaetiid species. At the next higher trophic level, *P. antarctica* has been described as an important component in the diet of the common diving petrel *Pelecanoides urinatrix* and the southern rockhopper penguin *Eudyptes chrysocome filholi* (Tremblay and Cherel 2000; Bocher et al. 2000a, 2000b, 2002). The production of *P. antarctica* at various sampling stations has to be compared with the dietary demand of *P. urinatrix* and *Echysocome* to locate the potential foraging zones of the planktivorous seabird in the Bay of Morbihan.

Studies on the reproductive biology of *D. pectinatus* and *P. antarctica* were recently carried out in the Bay of Morbihan at Kerguelen (Alonzo et al. 2000a, 2000b, 2001). Both species are sac-spawners, i.e. adult females carry their eggs attached in an external mass. In both cases, reproductive strategies were based on the production of a small number of eggs with extended energy reserves. The individual energy budgets, including the

energetic requirements for metabolism and reproduction, demonstrated the role of lipid storage acting as energy reserves for survival and reproduction when food availability is low. *D. pectinatus* and *P. antarctica* were adapted to the strong seasonal variability of environmental conditions, as shown by their ability to store large amounts of lipids (Sargent and Henderson 1986; Conover 1988). Furthermore, evaluating the relative involvement of reserves in the energy budget of the reproduction was essential for our understanding of zooplankton ecology, as it determines the degree of dependence of the egg production on immediate nutritional supply. The respective influence of temperature and food on the production of copepods still remains controversial, and production rates have been shown in recent works to depend on the reproductive modes of the species (Hunley and Lopez 1992; Huntley 1996; Kleppel et al. 1996; Hirst and Shearer 1997; Hirst and Lampitt 1998).

The present study reports the seasonal changes in biomass, weight-specific growth rates and secondary production of *P. antarctica* and *D. pectinatus* at three stations of the Bay of Morbihan, Kerguelen Islands. Energy budgets of populations were investigated to clarify the trophic link between the species. Estimated growth rates were compared to those predicted by various temperature-dependent models of copepod production, and used together with calculations of the predatory demand for planktivorous seabirds to assess the potential of each copepod species to support their respective predators.

Materials and methods

Sample collection and treatment

The field sampling was carried out in the Bay of Morbihan aboard the R.V. "La Curieuse" from January 1996 to December 1996 as a part of an integrative scientific program on zooplankton and its predators ("Programme IOZ: Interactions Oiseaux-Zooplankton"). Zooplankton was collected at night every month at three stations (ST6, ST9 and ST10) located in the sheltered fjords of the southwestern part of the bay (Fig. 1). At each station, zooplankton was collected with a WP-2 net (1 m²; 200 µm mesh aperture) towed vertically. Hauls were performed from near the bottom (140 m at ST6; 80 m at ST9 and ST10) to the surface. Zooplankton were fixed immediately in 10% neutralized formaldehyde made up with seawater.

Biomass

Paraeuchaeta antarctica and *Drepanopus pectinatus* were sorted from subsamples (Motoda box) to determine their relative total biomass in the community. The remaining unsorted fraction was weighed to evaluate the total biomass (mg m⁻³) of zooplankton. All fractions were rinsed with 4.5% ammonium formate, dried at 60°C for 2 days and weighed.

Biomass composition of *P. antarctica*

At each station, the seasonal composition of the population was investigated. All stages from C1 to adult were counted with males and females being identified for C4, C5 and adult stages. Seasonal changes in body dry weight of the various juvenile and adult stages at ST6 over the same year were reported in a previous study

Table 1 *Paraeuchaeta antarctica*. Dry body weight of juvenile and adult stages and egg-production rate (total number of eggs produced per female during each time interval). Dry weight per egg: $17.4 \mu\text{g egg}^{-1}$. Dry body weight of C3: $0.54 \text{ mg copepod}^{-1}$. Number of samples: 3 triplicates of 5 adult females; 3 triplicates of 10 other stages

Date	Body weight (DW mg copepod ⁻¹)					Egg production
	C4	C5 male	Adult male	C5 female	Adult female	
23 Jan 1996	–	1.83	–	2.44	5.26	2.1
16 Feb 1996	–	2.32	–	3.20	5.65	4.6
23 Apr 1996	–	2.40	–	3.18	5.20	0.8
2 Jun 1996	–	2.60	2.27	3.15	6.45	2.7
29 Jul 1996	–	2.22	2.07	–	4.08	38.5
27 Aug 1996	–	–	1.90	–	5.46	44.0
26 Sep 1996	–	–	1.71	–	4.33	28.9
27 Oct 1996	–	–	–	–	3.21	22.1
11 Nov 1996	–	–	–	–	3.98	9.1
25 Nov 1996	1.68	–	–	–	4.75	9.1
6 Dec 1996	2.11	–	–	2.43	5.78	13.3

(Table 1; Alonzo et al. 2000a) and were used to calculate the proportion of biomass associated with each developmental stage. At a given time, the relative biomass b_i of stage i (mg mg⁻¹ of *P. antarctica*) was calculated using the following equation:

$$b_i = \frac{p_i \cdot w_i}{\sum_j p_j \cdot w_j} \quad (1)$$

where p_i and p_j are the proportions of copepods and w_i and w_j the body dry weights (DW, mg copepod⁻¹) at stages i and j . The absolute biomass B_i of stage i (mg m⁻³) was then obtained from:

$$B_i = b_i \cdot B_{\text{tot}} \quad (2)$$

where B_{tot} is the total biomass of *P. antarctica* (mg m⁻³).

Biomass of adult female and juvenile *D. pectinatus*

To calculate the production associated with juvenile growth and with reproduction of adult females, the proportion of the biomass represented by adult female and juvenile stages was required. The abundance of adult females n_{AF} (copepods m⁻³) was counted from subsamples (Motoda box) and their body dry weight w_{AF} (mg copepod⁻¹) measured using triplicates of ten copepods. Biomasses of adult females B_{AF} and of juveniles B_{juv} (mg m⁻³) were calculated using:

$$B_{\text{AF}} = n_{\text{AF}} \cdot w_{\text{AF}} \quad (3)$$

$$B_{\text{juv}} = B_{\text{tot}} - B_{\text{AF}} \quad (4)$$

where B_{tot} is the total biomass of *D. pectinatus* (mg m⁻³).

Growth rates of juvenile stages

Previous studies provided the weights of eggs for *D. pectinatus* and *P. antarctica* (Alonzo et al. 2000a, 2001), and permitted evaluation of juvenile weight-specific growth rates.

In *D. pectinatus*, g_{juv} (day⁻¹) was calculated for each generation using the following equation:

$$g_{\text{juv}} = \frac{\ln\left(\frac{w_{\text{AF}}}{w_{\text{E}}}\right)}{\tau} \quad (5)$$

where w_{AF} and w_{E} are the dry weight of the adult female and of the egg, respectively, and τ is the generation time calculated from the development times observed by Razouls and Razouls (1990).

Whereas multigenerational *D. pectinatus* produces overlapping generations, *P. antarctica* produces clearly distinct annual generations, which make possible detailed stage-specific calculation of growth rates. Growth rates (day⁻¹) were therefore calculated during three distinct periods of development, from egg to stage C4, from C4 to C5 and from C5 to adult with the following equation:

$$g_i = \frac{\ln\left(\frac{w_f}{w_i}\right)}{t} \quad (6)$$

where w_i and w_f are the body dry weight of the initial stage i and final stage f , and t is the time lapse (days) between the dates when their respective maximum biomass was observed in the field.

Production rates of adult females

In our study, the production of adult stages concerned exclusively the egg production of the females. The increase in body weight associated with the storage of energy reserves was already taken into account in the calculation of the growth rates of C5. Therefore, the production rate g_{AF} of adult females (day⁻¹) was calculated using the equation:

$$g_{\text{AF}} = \frac{1 + f \cdot \frac{w_{\text{E}}}{w_{\text{AF}}}}{t} \quad (7)$$

where f is the mean number of eggs produced by a female during time t (days), and w_{E} and w_{AF} the dry weights of the egg and of the adult female, respectively. In *P. antarctica*, f previously had been determined in the field for the seasonal cycle (Table 1; Alonzo et al. 2000b). In *D. pectinatus*, adult females tended to lose their eggs during capture, and f was investigated in experimental conditions using various food situations (Alonzo et al. 2001). Depending on feeding conditions (starvation, low or abundant food supply), females of $27.3 \mu\text{g DW}$ produced $12.0 \text{ eggs sac}^{-1}$, whereas females of $56.6 \mu\text{g DW}$ produced $19.4 \text{ eggs sac}^{-1}$. The extrapolation of the observed experimental rates of egg production to the natural situation was therefore based on the level of energy storage observed in females from the field.

Copepod production

In *D. pectinatus*, the production P (mg m⁻³ day⁻¹) was calculated using:

$$P = g_{\text{juv}} \cdot B_{\text{juv}} + g_{\text{AF}} \cdot B_{\text{AF}} \quad (8)$$

where B_{juv} and B_{AF} are the biomass (mg m⁻³) of juveniles and adult females, respectively, and g_{juv} and g_{AF} their respective weight-specific growth rates (day⁻¹) as calculated above.

In *P. antarctica*, the production P (mg m⁻³ day⁻¹) was calculated from:

$$P = \sum_i g_i \cdot B_i + g_{\text{AF}} \cdot B_{\text{AF}} \quad (9)$$

where B_i and B_{AF} are the biomass (mg m⁻³) of stage i and adult females, respectively, and g_i and g_{AF} their respective weight-specific growth rates (day⁻¹) as calculated above.

Mortality

Mortality constitutes the fraction of a population which is potentially available as a food source to its predators. The mean mortality $\bar{M}b$ ($\text{mg m}^{-3} \text{ day}^{-1}$) of *P. antarctica* over a time period t (days) was calculated using the mean production \bar{P} ($\text{mg m}^{-3} \text{ day}^{-1}$) and the biomass B_{tot} (mg m^{-3}) according the following equation (Crisp 1971):

$$\Delta B_{\text{tot}} = (\bar{P} - \bar{M}b) \cdot t \text{ and } \bar{M}b = \bar{P} - \frac{\Delta B_{\text{tot}}}{t} \quad (10)$$

The equation assumes that changes in biomass associated with advection are negligible compared to production and mortality rates. Such an assumption is applicable to *D. pectinatus* and *P. antarctica* in Kerguelen as both species are present in great biomass in the Bay of Morbihan, but are absent from the continental shelf and the open ocean. Therefore, given that:

$$\bar{P} = \sum_i g_i \cdot \bar{B}_i \quad (11)$$

where \bar{B}_i is the mean biomass, and assuming an exponential variation of biomass between t_1 and t_2 :

$$\bar{M}b = \sum_i g_i \cdot \frac{(B_{i2} - B_{i1})}{\ln(B_{i2}/B_{i1})} - \frac{B_{\text{tot}2} - B_{\text{tot}1}}{t_2 - t_1} \quad (12)$$

B_{i1} and B_{i2} being the biomass of stage i at time t_1 and t_2 , respectively.

Respiration of *P. antarctica*

The respiration of *P. antarctica* was investigated as the energy cost associated with body maintenance. The mean respiration of the population \bar{R}_{tot} ($\mu\text{l O}_2 \text{ m}^{-3} \text{ day}^{-1}$) was given by:

$$\bar{R}_{\text{tot}} = \sum_i \frac{\bar{B}_i}{w_i} \cdot R_i \quad (13)$$

where R_i is the respiration of a copepod ($\mu\text{l O}_2 \text{ day}^{-1} \text{ copepod}^{-1}$) of body weight w_i (mg copepod^{-1}) and mean biomass \bar{B}_i . R_i was calculated using the allometric relationship established for marine zooplankton (Ikeda 1974):

$$\log_{10} R = (0.8918 - 0.01089T) \cdot \log_{10} W + (0.02438T - 0.1838) \quad (14)$$

where R is the respiration ($\mu\text{l O}_2 \text{ animal}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$), W the dry weight (mg animal^{-1}) and T the temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$).

Energy requirements and supply

The potential of *D. pectinatus* to support *P. antarctica* was assessed by comparing the energy requirements of the feeding stages of the predatory, carnivorous species to the energy supplied via mortality of its prey. Converting amounts of O_2 , protein and lipids into energy was performed using the equivalents of $19.38 \text{ J ml}^{-1} \text{ O}_2$ (Båmstedt 1979), 39.5 J mg^{-1} lipids and 23.6 J mg^{-1} protein (Winberg 1971).

Energy demand of *P. antarctica* included respiration (as an energy demand for body maintenance), growth and production of eggs. Respiration of adult males was not taken into account as they do not feed, and survive using their intrinsic energy reserves only (Yen 1991). The energy required by the population for its production was estimated assuming copepod dry weight is composed of 50% lipids and 50% protein (Alonzo et al. 2000a). The total requirement of *P. antarctica* was corrected assuming the energy reserves of adult females provided 50% of their energy demand from June to October (Alonzo et al. 2000b). A factor of 1.25 was added to adjust for an assimilation rate of 80%. The potential energy supplied by the mortality of *D. pectinatus* was estimated assuming the dry weight of prey was composed of 20% lipids and 80% protein (Alonzo et al. 2001).

Predation on *P. antarctica* by seabirds

The diet of six seabird species breeding in the Bay of Morbihan was investigated during the summer months as a part of the IOZ program. Two of the six species, the common diving petrel and the southern rockhopper penguin, preyed significantly on *P. antarctica* during the chick-rearing period. *D. pectinatus* was too small, and accounted for an insignificant proportion by mass of the birds' diet (Bocher et al. 2000a; Cherel et al. 2002a, 2002b). The biomass of copepods preyed on (Pb) by common diving petrels and rockhopper penguins in January–February 1996 (kg day^{-1}) was calculated using the data in Table 2 with the following equation:

$$\text{Pb} = \frac{N_{\text{pair}} \cdot f_{\text{feeding}}}{p_{\text{chick}}} \cdot \sum_i n_i \cdot w_i \quad (15)$$

where N_{pair} is the number of breeding pairs in the bay, f_{feeding} is the frequency of chick feeding (day^{-1}), p_{chick} is the proportion of gathered energy by adult birds which is delivered to the chick, n_i is the number of prey at stage i per chick stomach content and w_i is the body dry weight of stage i (mg copepod^{-1}). The biomass that has been preyed on was compared with the mortality in biomass of *P. antarctica*.

Table 2 *Pelecanooides urinatrix*, *Eudyptes chrysocome filholi*. Abundance and foraging characteristics of planktivorous seabirds during the chick-rearing period in the Bay of Morbihan

Description	Symbol	Common diving petrels	Rockhopper penguins
Estimated breeding populations (pairs)	N_{pair}	250,000 ^a	5,000 ^a
Number of <i>Paraeuchaeta antarctica</i> per chick food sample	n_i	454 ^b	360 ^c
Chick feeding frequency (number of meals per day)	f_{feeding}	1.0 ^b	1.4 ^d
Percent of adult gathered energy delivered to chick	p_{chick}	16 ^c	16 ^c
Selected prey	–	No ^c	Adult females ^c
Mean maximum dive depths (m)	–	33 ^b	70 ^c

^aWeimerskirch et al. (1989); about a third of the Kerguelen population of common diving petrels (500,000–1,000,000 pairs) is assumed to breed in the Bay of Morbihan

^bBocher et al. (2000a)

^cAuthors' unpublished data

^dRockhopper penguin chicks are fed daily by the females during the brooding period (about 25 days). They are fed by the two adults during the crèche stage (about 45 days), which is marked by slightly longer foraging trips. We therefore estimated the feeding frequency for the whole chick-rearing period (about 70 days; Stahl et al. 1985) to average 1.4 meals day^{-1} (0.7 meals day^{-1} adult⁻¹)

^eRoby and Ricklefs (1986) for common diving petrels; sinceno value was available for rockhopper penguins, we assumed a similar ratio as that for diving petrels

Results

Structure and biomass of copepods

The biomass of *Drepanopus pectinatus* increased strongly in relation to primary production, with summer biomass up to 280 times greater than winter biomass (Figs. 2, 3). The biomass was mainly dominated by juveniles, except in late December at ST6 (adult females accounted for 85% of total biomass), from late November to late December at ST9 (75–89%) and mid-November at ST10 (58%), when the second annual generation (G2) was recruited. The concentration of chlorophyll *a* was greater at ST10 than at the other stations and increased

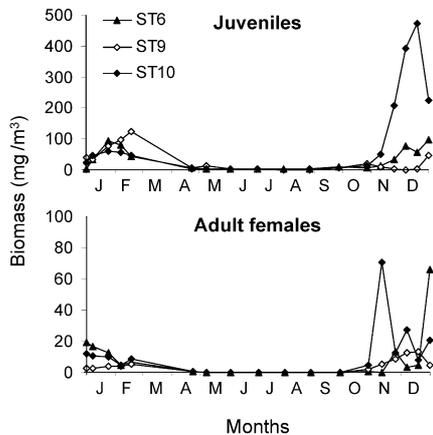


Fig. 2 *Drepanopus pectinatus*. Seasonal biomass of juveniles and adult females at three stations in the Bay of Morbihan

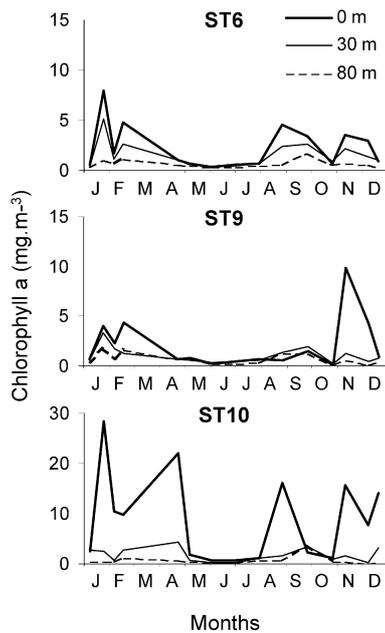


Fig. 3 Seasonal concentration in chlorophyll *a* in relation to depth at three stations of the Bay of Morbihan. Pigment concentration was measured as part of the IOZ program (authors' unpublished data)

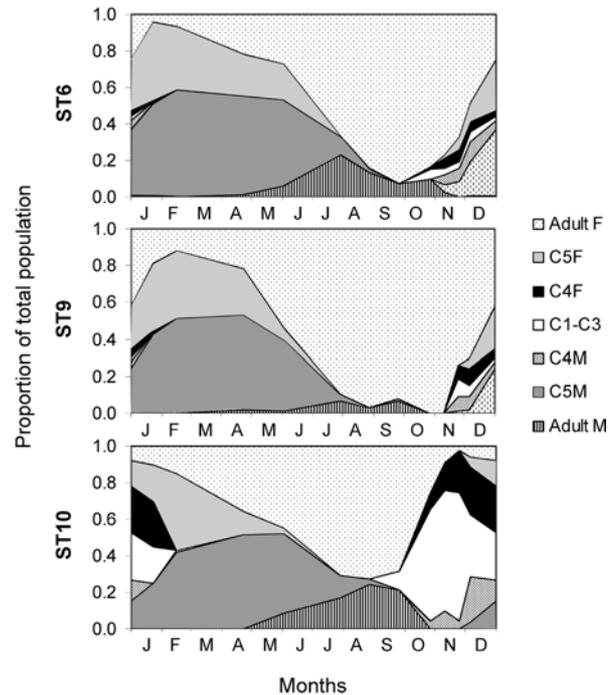


Fig. 4 *Paraeuchaeta antarctica*. Seasonal proportion of the various developmental stages at three stations in the Bay of Morbihan

as early as the end of August (Fig. 3). As a consequence, the peak biomass was much greater and occurred earlier at ST10 (mid-November to mid-December) than at ST6 (late January) and ST9 (mid-February).

In *Paraeuchaeta antarctica*, the population structure (Fig. 4) was similar among stations, being dominated by juvenile stages from December to June during the summer recruitment and growth of the annual generation, and by adult stages from July to November during the reproductive season. However, the proportion of stages C1–C4 was far greater at ST10 (up to 98% of the total abundance of late November) than at the two other stations (<25% at the same date).

Two biomass maxima were observed over the course of the year at every station, and were generally greater at ST6 than at the other stations (Fig. 5): (1) a major mid-summer peak, associated with the growth of the annual generation and mainly composed of C5 stages; and (2) a peak from late autumn to winter, dominated by adult females with extended energy reserves at the end of the feeding season. At ST10 the juvenile peak occurred earlier (late spring) and was dominated by C4 stages, whereas the peak of C5 stages took place later (in autumn) than at the other stations.

Growth rates

In *D. pectinatus* the juvenile growth rate varied strongly among generations (Table 3). A minimum value of 0.03 day^{-1} was observed in the winter generation (G4),

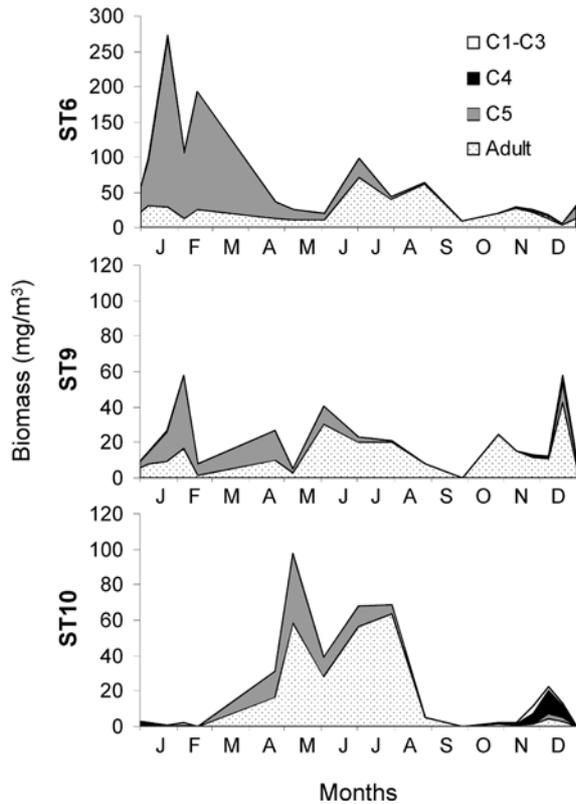


Fig. 5 *Paraeuchaeta antarctica*. Seasonal biomass of the various developmental stages at three stations in the Bay of Morbihan

whereas greater growth rates were recorded from spring to autumn, with a maximum of 0.10 day^{-1} in the summer generation (G2). A comparison of body dry weight

of females between experimental conditions and the field (Table 3) was used to estimate that females produced on average $19.4 \text{ eggs brood}^{-1}$ in the spring generation (G1) (and in generation G2 of summer 1997) and $12.0 \text{ eggs brood}^{-1}$ in generations G2 and G3 of 1996. Production rates associated with adult reproduction were five to seven times smaller than juvenile growth rates with a maximum value of 0.020 day^{-1} in the autumn generation (G3).

In *P. antarctica* juvenile growth rates varied in relation with development and sex, and were relatively consistent among stations (Table 4). A maximum of $0.03\text{--}0.04 \text{ day}^{-1}$ was observed during development from egg to C4 stage. Growth rates decreased at stage C4 and varied with sex: $0.001\text{--}0.005 \text{ day}^{-1}$ in C4 males and $0.003\text{--}0.010 \text{ day}^{-1}$ in C4 females. Growth rates varied from 0.005 to 0.009 day^{-1} in C5 females, while no growth was observed in males between C5 and adult stages. Production rate of adult females was again much smaller than juvenile growth rates, with a maximum value of 0.005 day^{-1} at the peak intensity of reproduction (end of August).

Production

The production of *D. pectinatus* mainly occurred in summer in relation to primary production and was almost zero from April to November during the period of low food availability (Fig. 6). Increasing production was observed from mid-November and reached a maximum of about $10 \text{ mg m}^{-3} \text{ day}^{-1}$ at ST6 and ST9 at the end of December. Greater production was observed at ST10,

Table 3 *Drepanopus pectinatus*. Production rates associated with juvenile growth and adult reproduction in the four annual generations. Generation period and generation time (τ) were reported by Razouls and Razouls (1990). Dry weight per copepod and per egg ($0.34 \mu\text{g egg}^{-1}$) were reported by Alonzo et al. (2001) (*n.d.* not determined)

Period	Temperature range ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	Generation time (days)	Dry weight ($\mu\text{g copepod}^{-1}$)		$g \text{ (day}^{-1}\text{)}$	$g_E \text{ (day}^{-1}\text{)}$
			Mean	SD		
Oct–Dec 1995	3.5–6.5	G1 72	53.5	5.0	0.07	0.016
Jan–Feb 1996	6.5	G2 52	31.5	4.3	0.09	0.017
Feb–Apr 1996	4.5–6.5	G3 52	27.5	8.6	0.08	0.020
Apr–Sep 1996	2.5–4.5	G4 72 ^a	4.1 ^a	0.6	0.03 ^a	<i>n.d.</i>
Oct–Dec 1996	3.0–7.0	G1 72	59.4	5.4	0.07	0.015
Jan–Feb 1997	7.0–8.0	G2 52	54.5	3.5	0.10	0.016
Feb–Apr 1997	5.5–7.0	G3 52	29.4	3.3	0.09	0.018

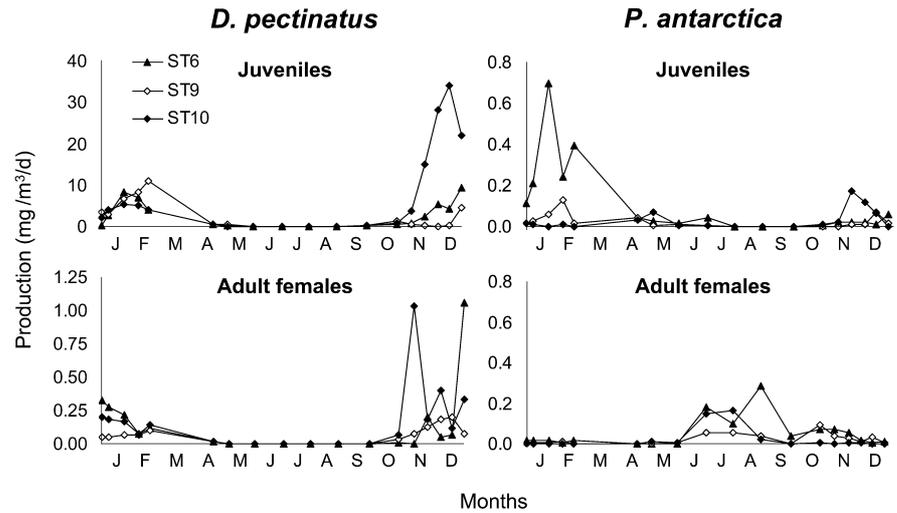
^aData concern the development from egg to C3 only as the abundance of C4, C5 and adult stages was not sufficient for gravimetry

Table 4 *Paraeuchaeta antarctica*. Development time and weight-specific growth rates of juvenile stages (*M* male; *F* female)

Development	Development time (days)			Growth rate (day^{-1})		
	ST6	ST9	ST10	ST6	ST9	ST10
Egg to C4	134	171	131	0.036	0.028	0.037
C4 to C5M	41	49	152	0.005	0.004	0.001
C4 to C5F	41	49	152	0.010	0.008	0.003
C5F to adult	135	117	83	0.005	0.006	0.009

Fig. 6 *Drepanopus pectinatus*, *Paraeuchaeta antarctica*.

Seasonal production associated with the growth of juveniles and reproduction of adult females at three stations in the Bay of Morbihan



with values up to $34 \text{ mg m}^{-3} \text{ day}^{-1}$. The production of adult females took place at the same period and represented a minor part of the total production with values 10–30 times smaller than those associated with juvenile growth. The production of *P. antarctica* remained low over the course of the year with maximum values at ST6 of $0.7 \text{ mg m}^{-3} \text{ day}^{-1}$ in summer and of $0.3 \text{ mg m}^{-3} \text{ day}^{-1}$ in winter (Fig. 6). Thus, seasonal variations were mainly qualitative, and two peaks of production were observed: (1) a major peak in summer, associated with the juvenile growth, and (2) a peak in winter during the season of reproduction. Production was generally smaller at ST9 and ST10 (maximum of $0.2 \text{ mg m}^{-3} \text{ day}^{-1}$) than at ST6.

Mortality of *D. pectinatus*

As a result of the seasonal variability in biomass and production of *D. pectinatus*, the mortality in biomass of the population (Fig. 7) varied from zero in winter to up to $10 \text{ mg m}^{-3} \text{ day}^{-1}$ in summer. The mortality was much greater at ST10 than at the other stations, with a calculated maximum of about $50 \text{ mg m}^{-3} \text{ day}^{-1}$ in December (not shown on figure).

Respiration of *P. antarctica*

Seasonal changes of respiration of *P. antarctica* followed those observed in biomass and composition of the population (Fig. 8). At ST6, respiration was about three times lower in winter ($1.5 \text{ ml O}_2 \text{ m}^{-3} \text{ day}^{-1}$) than in summer ($5.2 \text{ ml O}_2 \text{ m}^{-3} \text{ day}^{-1}$). Such strong changes were not observed at ST9 and ST10 over the course of the year, with values remaining below $1.6 \text{ ml O}_2 \text{ m}^{-3} \text{ day}^{-1}$.

Energy budget

On the one hand, the mortality in biomass of *D. pectinatus* was expressed in terms of energy. On the other

hand, the energy demand of the feeding stages of *P. antarctica* was calculated including their requirements for growth, reproduction and respiration. These two components were compared at each station over a seasonal cycle (Fig. 9). From October to April *P. antarctica* could easily achieve its energy needs from *D. pectinatus* mortality, owing to the great summer production of the species. The energy supplied by the herbivore decreased strongly around mid-April in association with the recruitment of the winter generation (G4) and quickly became insufficient to meet the demand of *P. antarctica*. Therefore, a shift to an alternate prey was necessary during winter to support the survival and reproduction of the predatory species. Due to the late summer peak of

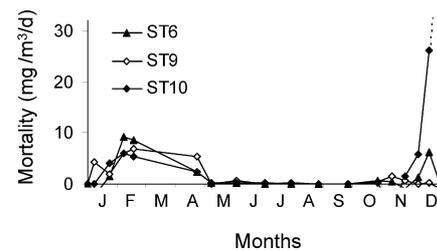


Fig. 7 *Drepanopus pectinatus*. Seasonal mortality in biomass of the total population at three stations in the Bay of Morbihan

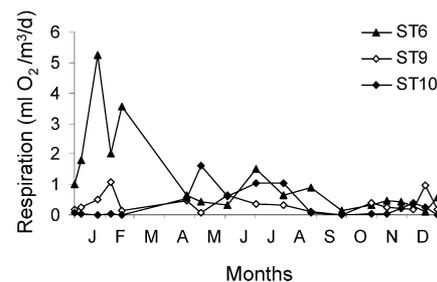


Fig. 8 *Paraeuchaeta antarctica*. Seasonal respiration of the total population at three stations in the Bay of Morbihan

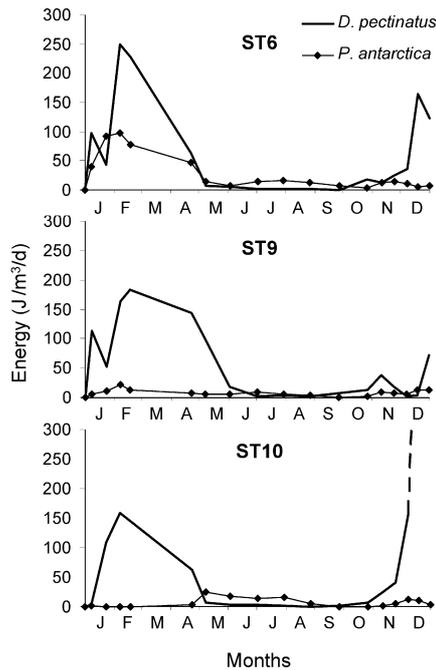


Fig. 9 *Drepanopus pectinatus*, *Paraeuchaeta antarctica*. Energy budget of a theoretical volume (1 m^3) of seawater at three stations of the Bay of Morbihan. *D. pectinatus*: energy supplied by the mortality of the population; *P. antarctica*: energy demand associated with somatic growth, reproduction and respiration of the feeding stages (except adult males)

biomass of *D. pectinatus* at ST9, a short period of insufficient availability of this prey also occurred for *P. antarctica* in December at this station.

Predation on *P. antarctica* by seabirds

The estimated total predation of *P. antarctica* during chick-rearing is reported in Table 5. During the chick-rearing period (January–February), the daily biomass of *P. antarctica* predated by planktivorous seabirds was

Table 5 *Paraeuchaeta antarctica*. Impact of predation of planktivorous seabirds (*Pelecanoides urinatrix*, *Eudyptes chrysocome filholi*) during the chick-rearing period (February) in the Bay of Morbihan. Maximum mortality in biomass occurred on 7 February 1996 at ST6 and 18 February 1996 at ST9 and ST10

	Common diving petrels	Rockhopper penguins
Total daily predation		
Abundance (millions of prey day ⁻¹)	709	16
Biomass (kg day ⁻¹)	1,987	86
Mortality, in biomass (mg m ⁻³ day ⁻¹)		
ST6	12.3	1.5
ST9	4.6	1.0
ST10	0.2	0.0001
Foraging area (km ⁻²)		
ST6 (140 m depth)	1.1	0.4
ST9 (80 m depth)	5.5	0.6
ST10 (80 m depth)	150	9,450

evaluated at 2 tons of C5 and adult stages for the common diving petrels and at 86 kg of adult females for the rockhopper penguin. Considering the maximum mortality in biomass of *P. antarctica* in February, we calculated the foraging area of sea (km²) by which, over the water column, the copepod mortality meets the dietary needs of the planktivorous birds. At ST6 on 7 February 1996 and at ST9 on 18 February 1996, foraging areas of 1.1–5.5 km² and 0.4–0.6 km² were sufficient to balance the predatory demands of common diving petrels and rockhopper penguins, respectively. The two planktivorous seabirds could potentially achieve their dietary needs easily from *P. antarctica* at these stations. At ST10, the mortality of *P. antarctica* was at all times insufficient to support the predation of seabirds, with foraging areas of 150 km² and up to 9,450 km². Thus, this station was unlikely to be a foraging zone for planktivorous seabirds.

Discussion

Comparison of production rates

In the present study, production rates associated with juvenile growth and adult reproduction were estimated for two sac-spawning species of copepod during an an-

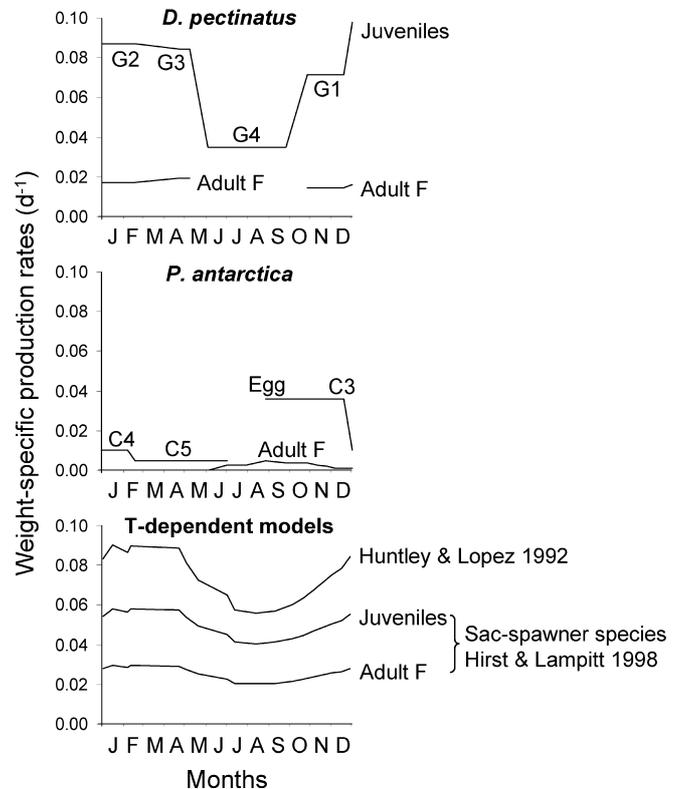


Fig. 10 *Drepanopus pectinatus*, *Paraeuchaeta antarctica*. Juvenile and adult production rates during the course of 1 year in relation to generations (*D. pectinatus*) and development (*P. antarctica*), and production rates predicted from temperature (T) according to Huntley and Lopez (1992) and Hirst and Lampitt (1998)

nual cycle. Several models have been proposed in the literature to calculate the production rates of copepods from temperature (Huntley and Lopez 1992; Hirst and Shearer 1997; Hirst and Lampitt 1998). A comparison between observed growth rates and predicted values (Fig. 10) led to the conclusion that, for *Drepanopus pectinatus*, the simplified method of Huntley and Lopez (1992) for estimating secondary production was adequate for nearly all generations (except G4), since the estimated specific growth rate for generations G1–G3 was quite well approximated by the maximum weight-specific growth rate predicted by the authors' function of temperature (Fig. 10). Juvenile growth rates for *D. pectinatus* were underestimated by the equation that Hirst and Lampitt (1998) specifically established for sac-spawning species. Conversely, in *Paraeuchaeta antarctica*, this equation overestimated the actual juvenile weight-specific growth rates that we observed. The two copepods investigated in the present study illustrated that the distinction between free- and sac-spawning modes might not be sufficient to describe the diversity of situations.

In spite of a common mode of reproduction, different growth rates could be expected from the multi-generational species *D. pectinatus*, whose life cycle is based on four generations per year, and the annual species *P. antarctica*, which produces only one generation a year. Besides reproductive strategies, the differences might also be related to the distinct trophic positions occupied by the herbivorous *D. pectinatus* and the predatory *P. antarctica* in the food web. The biochemical composition also differed between the studied species, being dominated by protein in *D. pectinatus*, whereas lipids are the major component in *P. antarctica*, and might have an effect on growth. In *P. antarctica* a major decrease in growth rate occurred at stage C4, with production rates of stages C4 and C5 low and similar to that of adult females. This decrease has been interpreted

in the genus *Calanus* as an effect of the extended lipid biosynthesis occurring at the subadult and adult stages (Hirche 1996).

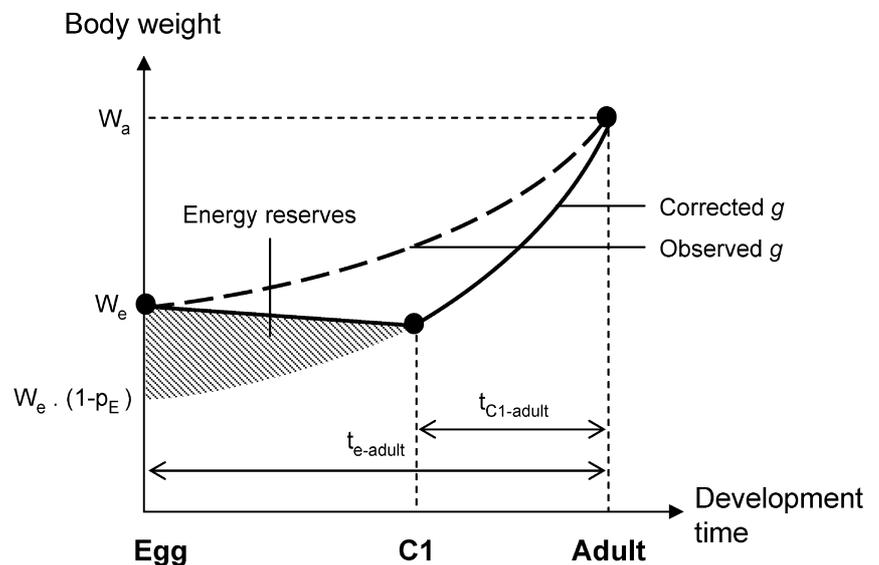
During development of *P. antarctica* from egg to C4, the dependence of growth of early stages on energy reserves might have a major influence on the estimation of growth rate. In fact, a low apparent growth might result from the existence of extended energy stores in the eggs (Fig. 11). A decrease in weight associated with respiration occurring between the egg and the first feeding stage could also be hypothesized. The correction would require: (1) the growth rate to be calculated only from the first feeding stage (C1 in the case of euchaetiid copepods after about 1 week of development) (Nicholls 1934), or (2) the functional fraction of the growing organism to be distinguished from its energy reserves, using a modification of the equation for juvenile growth rates:

$$g_{e-i} = \frac{\ln\left(\frac{w_i}{w_e \cdot (1-p_E)}\right)}{t_{e-i}} \quad (16)$$

where w_e and w_i are the dry weight of egg and stage i , p_E the proportion of energy reserves in the dry weight of egg and t_{e-i} the development time to stage i (days). Given the dry weight and the development time of C4, a mean growth rate of 0.05 day^{-1} , as predicted by the Hirst and Lampitt (1998) model, would imply an egg weight of $5 \mu\text{g}$. This implies that $>70\%$ of the observed weight ($17.4 \mu\text{g egg}^{-1}$) could correspond to energy reserves.

Growth rates of juvenile stages (except C4 and C5 in *P. antarctica*) were about four to five times larger than the production rate of adult females. The difference might be a result of *P. antarctica* and *D. pectinatus* reproductive strategies, as both species produce a small number of eggs, which yields low associated production rates (Alonzo et al. 2000a, 2001). The difference in

Fig. 11 Calculation of juvenile growth rate, corrected by taking into account the proportion p_E of energy reserves deposited in the egg (hatched area): correction of the egg weight or calculation of growth rate from the C1 stage only (considered here as the first stage showing apparent growth)



production rates between juveniles and adults was also predicted for sac-spawning copepods by Hirst and Lampitt (1998), and could be either intrinsic to the reproductive strategies of species or interpreted as an effect of food limitation in adults. A difference between production rates of juveniles (as somatic growth) and adults (as egg production) has often been described in copepods, more commonly in large species (Peterson 1986, 1988; Peterson et al. 1991; Richardson and Verheye 1999). These authors explained the difference as a consequence of the increasing effect of food limitation with the size of the copepods, which might also occur in Kerguelen, especially in *P. antarctica*. Indeed, a large difference in dry weight of adult females and brood size of the species was noted between Kerguelen Islands and South Georgia (Ward and Robins 1987; Alonzo et al. 2000a). This difference could either be the consequence of lower food availability for *P. antarctica* at Kerguelen than at South Georgia or result from differential predation pressure related to the size between the two regions.

Source and availability of food for *P. antarctica*

This work is part of an ongoing study of the subantarctic ecosystem of the Kerguelen Islands. In the present study, we have attempted to model some aspects of the pelagic ecosystem of the Bay of Morbihan. The main result from the energy budget of the copepod community, including the energetic requirements of *P. antarctica* and the energy supplied by the mortality of *D. pectinatus*, was that the secondary production by *D. pectinatus* can support the needs of *P. antarctica* in summer and that the predatory species would need to shift to alternate prey in winter. The cyclopoid *Oithona* spp., which is part of the diet of *P. antarctica* at South Georgia and Crocker Passage (Øresland 1991; Øresland and Ward 1993), is likely to provide this alternate food source at Kerguelen. *Oithona* spp. (*O. frigida* and *O. similis*) were present in the Bay of Morbihan all year round (Razouls et al. 1995, 1996) and showed an abundance of 500–1,000 copepods m⁻³ in winter (Razouls, unpublished data).

The role of *Oithona* and other small copepod species in marine pelagic ecosystems has been largely underestimated due to the selectivity of the conventional nets used in the study of mesozooplankton ecology (Gallienne and Robins 2001). These authors concluded that the use of a WP2 net with a 200 µm mesh might lead to the loss of a major fraction (up to 90%) of organisms between 200 and 800 µm in length. In our study, this fraction would include *Oithona* spp. and the young juvenile stages of *D. pectinatus*. Although the net failed at sampling the young stages of both copepod species the main conclusion of the study remains valid, since it is arguable that the missing small stages of *P. antarctica* (C1–C3) likely feed on smaller prey (nauplii and on the first copepodite stages of *D. pectinatus*) than those in-

cluded in the present budget. Furthermore, Yen's (1991) results showed that 800 µm represented a suboptimal body length of prey for the large stages of *P. antarctica*, so that the main fraction of its food was taken into account in our budget.

Copepod predators

The population of *D. pectinatus* could potentially easily support the predator *P. antarctica* in summer. Indeed, during this period the energy demand of the euchaetid never exceeded 40%, 20% and 60% of the amount supplied by the mortality of *D. pectinatus*, respectively, at ST6, ST9 and ST10. Therefore, alternative trophic relationships remain to be investigated to explain the levels of mortality of *D. pectinatus* estimated in the Bay of Morbihan. The carnivorous, hyperiid amphipod *Themisto gaudichaudii*, which is one of the most numerous species of macrozooplankton in the epipelagic zone of the Southern Ocean (de Broyer and Jazdzewski 1993; Pakhomov and McQuaid 1996; Vinogradov et al. 1996), is abundant in the waters of Kerguelen. Being a non-selective, opportunistic predator that feeds on the most abundant prey (Pakhomov and Perissinotto 1996; Froneman et al. 2000), the species is most likely responsible for a major part of the mortality of *D. pectinatus* (especially in the open part of the Bay of Morbihan, where *P. antarctica* is absent) and probably also feeds on the small developmental stages (larvae to C3) of *P. antarctica*.

Our study showed that the two planktivorous seabirds (common diving petrels and rockhopper penguins) could potentially achieve their dietary needs easily from the *P. antarctica* mortality estimated at ST6 on 7 February 1996 and at ST9 on 18 February 1996. One should note, however, the limitations of this approach, which was based on the assumed absence of advective import or export of biomass in the system. Such processes of advection must occur when the calculated production could not alone balance the variations of biomass, yielding negative values of mortality. The calculated production remained insufficient even when the observed growth rates were replaced by those predicted according to the Hirst and Lampitt (1998) model (data not shown). Furthermore, *P. antarctica* provided only a small, but significant, part of the food ingested by seabirds, accounting for 7.5% and 2.7% by mass (21.7% and 9.9% by number) of the diet of common diving petrels and rockhopper penguins, respectively, in February 1996, the major item being the amphipod *T. gaudichaudii* (Bocher et al. 2000a, 2000b, 2001, 2002; Tremblay and Cherel 2000).

This study is the first step toward a model of the subantarctic ecosystem of the Kerguelen Islands. The role of copepods in the pelagic food web and the relative importance of their predation by seabirds will be determined through the investigation of other components of the community: the small, cyclopoid copepod *Oithona*, as a winter food source of *P. antarctica*, and

the hyperiid amphipod *T. gaudichaudii* and larvae of fish (*Nothotenia*) (Koubbi 1992) as potential predators responsible for the mortality of *D. pectinatus* and *P. antarctica*.

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