

PAVLOVA, E.V. – 2006. **Movement and energy metabolism of marine planktonic organisms.** University Press, Hyderabad, India. 207 pp. ISBN 81 7371 495 9 (Translated from Russian).

This monograph on the motility characteristics and metabolic demand of plankton organisms is the English translation of an early treatise originally published in Russian in 1987. Most of the data presented correspond to personal observations of the author and refer to a broad representation of planktonic *phyla*, from dinoflagellates to ctenophores, several crustaceans (amongst them about a dozen Copepod species) and tunicates (salps), on different marine systems including the Black and Mediterranean Seas and the Indian and Pacific Oceans. The work is divided into nine chapters, including a short introduction and the conclusions. Chapters 2 to 4 are devoted to plankton motion, and cover methodological aspects, the description and quantification of the displacement of the different plankton organisms, and the variability induced by the experimental conditions. The different components of zooplankton metabolism (energy losses) are discussed in Chapters 5 to 8, which include topics such as the study of basal and total metabolism and the relation between zooplankton motion and metabolic demand.

Although according to the abstract the author “*corrected errors in the original and updated few sections*”, out of 316 citations—strongly biased towards Russian scientific journals—only 11 correspond to articles published after 1987, the year in which the first version was published. There are few references to English scientific journals (probably a

consequence of language barriers) and the author fails to cite the seminal works by pioneering authors, many of them published well before the monograph first appeared in 1987.

A weak aspect of the monograph lies in a certain ambiguity and lack of detail in part of the methodology description, which concerns mainly the study of motion. This is where the time elapsed since the experimental work was done becomes more visible, and where the conceptual approach appears to be somewhat obsolete. From the editing point of view, the result is quite disappointing. The data presentation is quite poor, with tables and hand-drawn graphs that are in general not clearly captioned or somewhat confusing, and symbols that are not easy to differentiate require an extra effort of concentration to extract all the information.

Nevertheless, in spite of the problems mentioned above, this monograph not only fills an important gap in the literature on zooplankton ecology, but also opens a window to the practically unknown world of the plankton research published in Russian. The information compiled is a precious body of scientific bibliography and historical data, a gold mine for zooplankton ecology researchers who are unable to read Russian.

To summarise, regardless of the two decades that have gone by since the first version, this is a useful book for zooplankton ecologists, full of data that are not strictly unpublished, but mostly ignored, that are finally about to obtain a long-deserved dissemination.

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