

MALACOSTRACAN CRUSTACEA OF ADMIRALTY BAY (KING GEORGE ISLAND) AND THEIR ROLE IN THE EKOSYSTEM OF THIS ANTARCTIC FIORD

Summary

Admiralty Bay is one of the best recognized regions of the Southern Ocean. It is therefore a representative area for Antarctic fiords (bays). Malacostracan Crustacea belong to the most diverse invertebrate groups in the Southern Ocean. In Admiralty Bay nearly 300 malacostracan species of Crustacea were hitherto recorded. Particular orders of this group are represented by the following numbers of species: Amphipoda — 182, Isopoda — 63, Cumacea — 15, Tanaidacea — 14, Mysidacea — 14, Euphausiacea

— 5, Decapoda — 2, and Leptostraca — 1. Due to this species diversity and a considerable share in benthos, hyperbenthos and zooplankton biomass Malacostraca play a very important role in the Antarctic marine ecosystem. In the present article we have discussed the composition of several malacostracan assemblages distinguished for different depths of the Bay and for its regions differently distant from the glaciers.