

## ABSTRACT

**Hugget, J.A., Gianakouras, D., Jones, S., Mwaluma, J.M. and A.J.R. Quick (2005)**

**Zooplankton studies in the South-West Indian Ocean – first results from ACEP**

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Delagoa Bight, off southern Mozambique, becomes the focus of an intensive physical oceanography study in early 2004. As a first step towards exploring the zooplankton community in this area, vertical bongo nets were used during August 2004 to collect zooplankton samples in the Delagoa Bight area as well as farther north. Over 40 standard vertical bongo hauls (0-200 m) were made along cross-shelf transects between Leadsman Canyon in the south, and Ponta Macanza in the north. Copepod biomass was estimated using length-weight regressions, and multivariate analysis was used to explore community structure based on zooplankton species composition and environmental variables. Some deep (0 – 800m) vertical bongo hauls, in addition to the standard depth hauls, were also made off Mozambique, Tanzania and the Comoros, as well as in the Mozambique Channel to look for the diapausal specimens of the upwelling copepod *calanoides carinatus*, in order to explore potential dispersal and transport mechanisms between populations found off Somalia and South Africa