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ABSTRACT

Phylogenetic Diversity as an index for Conservation Planning in CCAMLR statistical sub-areas

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Abstract

A huge barcoding effort has been ongoing since the last IPY (2007-2008) and resulted in a wealth of taxonomic findings. New species as well as yet unrecognised variants have been discovered and described. In parallel, conservation planning in Antarctica has strengthened with the enforcement of Heard Island and MacDonal Island (HIMI) Marine Reserve, extension of French EEZ Kerguelen and Crozet Reserve Naturelle, South Orkneys and Ross Sea MPAs implementation, and Weddell Sea, Domain I and Sub-Antarctic MPA projects. Conservation planning has also acquired refined methods that now can include evolutionary indices such as Phylogenetic Diversity (PD) to take into account history of taxa. This index is highly dependent on the number of species included in the analysis and also highly dependent on our knowledge of their inter-relationships.

Here we use 38 species in 20 genera and 6 families of crinoids to estimate PD for each CCAMLR statistical subareas. We used a high resolution sampling barcoding approach that proved to be central in decyphering the level of diversity within each taxon, especially at the species level. In some cases we do suspect the existence of cryptic, still undescribed species (e.g. *Promachocrinus kerguelensis*, *Notocrinus virilis*, *Isometra graminea*) and used lineages instead of species. In parallel, a new phylogeny is available that can be used to reflect relationships among taxa and infer their history.