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Seasonal Dynamics of the Nematodes of the Genus *Neochromadora*: Most Abundant Chromadorids in Sinop Bay (Black Sea, Turkey)

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Aim of the study: This study reveals the dynamics and morphological characteristics of the genus *Neochromadora* Micoletzky, 1924 recorded at Sinop coasts. Two species of the genus, *Neochromadora poecilosomoides* (Filipjev, 1918) and *N. sabulicola* (Filipjev, 1918) were registered in the study area throughout the year.

Material and Methods: The sampling sites of the study includes four different transects holding two stations with depths of 3 m and 10 m, and 8 stations in total. Samples were collected monthly between August 2009 and July 2010 by Scuba divers using push corers. Sediment samples were fixed onboard using 75% ethanol. Specimens were counted and analysed under a research microscope (Nikon Ni-U) with a DIC (Differential interference contrast) attachment and morphometric measurements of the two species are provided based on permanent glycerol slides of the specimens. Photos are obtained with a connected PC and a digital software (NIS elements).

Results:. Chromadorids were represented by seventeen species in the study area. *Neochromadora poecilosomoides* and *N. sabulicola* were recorded during four seasons of the year and they were the most abundant chromadorids in Sinop Bay reaching to maximum total densities of $112x10^3$ and $142x10^3$ ind.m^{-2}, respectively. Mean density of *N. poecilosomoides* varied seasonally at the stations and made a peak in autumn at St. C1. Population of *N. sabulicola* was at maximum densities in winter at stations B1 and C1.

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Keywords: *Neochromadora poecilosomoides*, *Neochromadora sabulicola*, Sinop Bay, Southern Black Sea, interannual dynamics.