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Jon-Arne Sneli

THE DISTRIBUTION OF CAUDOFOVEATA, POLYPLACOPHORA, AND

PROSOBRANCHIA IN BORGENFJORDEN, NORTH-TRÖNDELAG, NORWAY

TRONDHEIM 1975

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THE DISTRIBUTION OF CAUDOFOVEATA, POLYPLACOPHORA, AND PROSOBRANCHIA IN BORGENFJORDEN, NORTH-TRÖNDELAG, NORWAY

by

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ABSTRACT

Sneli, Jon-Arne. 1975. The distribution of Caudofoveata, Polyplacophora, and Prosobranchia in Borgenfjorden, North-Tröndelag, Norway. *K. norske Vidensk. Selsk. Mus. Miscnea* (23): 1-26.

The species distribution was investigated by grab sampling with a 0.1 m² Petersen grab (1,039 samples) during the years 1967-1971. A total of 1,195 specimens, belonging to 29 species, were obtained. The most abundant species on soft bottom substrates in Borgenfjorden were Turritella communis and Aporrhais pespelecani, comprising altogether 92.5% of all the specimens collected. About 40% of the species sampled are typical epifaunal organisms. In all three groups lusitanian-boreal species dominated within both fjord basins. Local distribution maps are presented.

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INTRODUCTION

The first inventories of the algae, benthic invertebrates, fishes and mammals in Borgenfjorden were made about half a century ago (Nordgaard 1910, 1923). The fjord once harboured a large stock of plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa* L.), but the size of the stock decreased considerably after 1940-1945. An extensive biological survey, to study the ecological relationships in the fjord, and if possible, to find reasons for the decrease in the stock of plaice was therefore started in 1967 (see Borgenfjordundersökelsene 1969, 1970, 1971, 1973).

The Borgenfjord survey includes investigations of the bottom fauna (Gulliksen, 1971, 1972, 1974, Holthe 1973, E. Lande 1975, E. Lande & Gulliksen 1973, Skjæveland 1972, 1973), sediments (Strömgren 1974, Strömgren et al. 1971), hydrodynamics (McClimans 1973), food and feeding habits of cod (Denstadli 1972) and plaice (R. Lande 1972, 1973).

This paper deals with the Caudofoveata, Polyplacophora, and Prosobranchia sampled in Borgenfjorden during the period 1967-1971.

AREA AND ENVIRONMENT

Borgenfjorden is located in the inner part of Trondheims-fjorden (Fig. 1). It is connected with Trondheimsfjorden proper by a narrow inlet, Strömmen, approximately 5-6 m deep and 150 m wide. The fjord itself is divided into two basins by a threshold, at a depth av 14 m. The maximum depth of the outer (southern) basin is nearly 40 m, of the inner (northern) about 30 m (cf. Fig. 3). The surface area of the fjord, at the high water mark, is estimated to be ca. 19.3 km^2 .

Based on SCUBA-diving forays and from the contents of dredges and grabs, Gulliksen (1971) has described the main types of bottom substrate; sediment analyses of subsamples from 85 grab samples have been published by Strömgren et al. (1971). The finest sediment types are found in the northern basin (Fig. 2). Coarser sediments occur where the tidal current has its greatest influence, i.e. near the entrance to the fjord, in areas situated on the west side

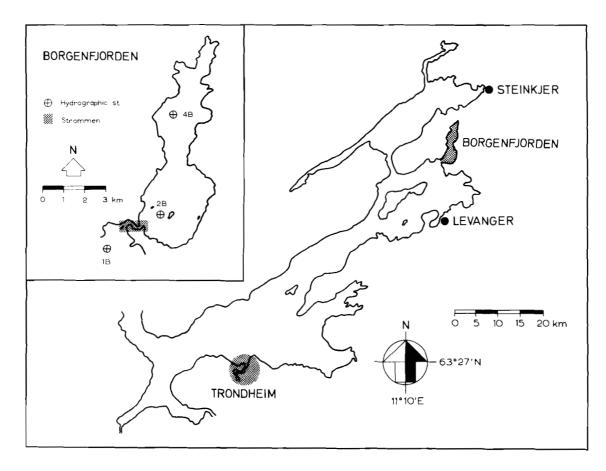


Fig. 1. Map of Trondheimsfjorden showing the location of the landlocked basin Borgenfjorden (after E. Lande & Gulliksen 1973).

of Rolsøy, and on the threshold between the two basins. Medium types of sediment are mainly found in the southern basin. The soft bottom material has a high content of organic matter (Strömgren et al. 1971).

The water masses of Borgenfjorden originate from the surface layers of Trondheimsfjorden proper, and 50% of the water masses are renewed over a period of 11-14 days (McClimans 1973). The tidal current through Strömmen, which may reach a speed of 5 m/sec near the surface (McClimans 1973), produces strong turbulence in the water masses of the southern basin, which are therefore practically homogeneous throughout the whole water column.

In the northern basin, however, a pycnocline is formed at about 15-20 m depth during the summer. Decomposition of trapped

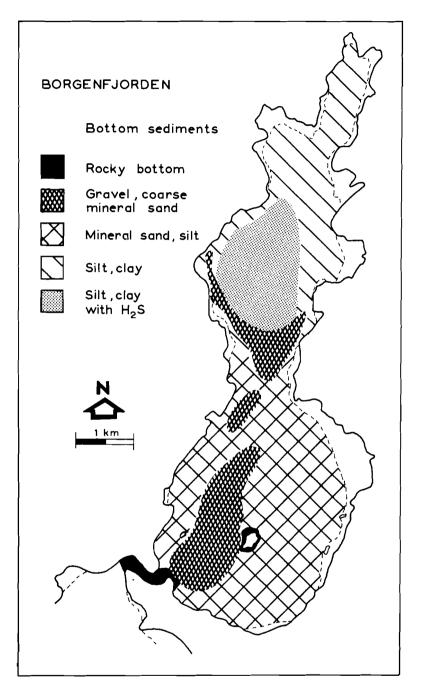


Fig. 2. Distribution of the main types of bottom sediments found in Borgenfjorden (after Gulliksen 1971).

organic matter below the pycnocline results in oxygen deficiency, and ${\rm H_2S}$ is formed. An annual renewal of the stagnant bottom water starts in the autumn or early winter and continues throughout the winter.

The water temperature usually ranges annually from l° to

 20° C and the salinity from 20 to $30^{\circ}/00$.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Between September 1967 and October 1971 a total of 1.039 samples were obtained by means of a 0.1 $\rm m^2$ Petersen grab. The most valuable, because consecutive, period of observations is from

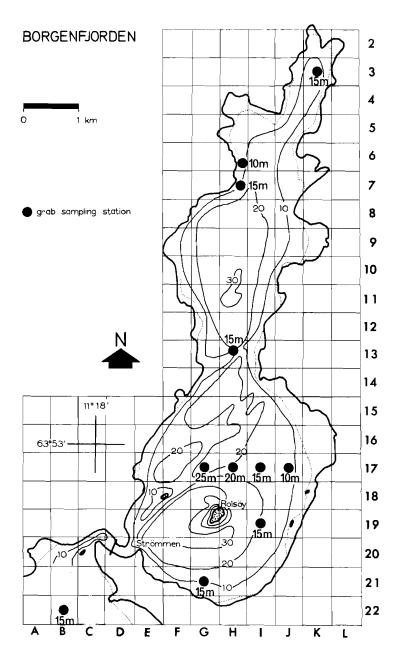


Fig. 3. Map of Borgenfjorden showing isobaths, cordinate grid, positions, and depths of all stations sampled between May 1970 and October 1971.

May 1970 to November 1971, comprising 12 cruises during which five replicate samples were obtained from each of the 11 stations (Fig. 3). Due to ice, three stations in the northern basin were omitted in February 1971. Thus, a total of 645 grab samples were collected during this period.

The contents of the grabs were sieved through a 1.0 mm mesh screen and the retained portion then sorted by hand. Holthe (1973) and E. Lande (1975) give an outline of the sampling programme, the methods used, and the stations worked.

Sampling errors due to half-filled grabs, incorrect positioning of the sampling stations, sorting by untrained personnel, etc., are of course present, but the size of the material sampled should provide valuable information about the distribution and frequency of occurrence of the molluscan species dealt with in this paper.

During the 1970-71 survey the station H 12 (Fig. 3) was located more or less on the threshold between the northern and southern basins. In the present paper it is considered as belonging to neither of the basins. E. Lande (1975) found that the species composition of the pelecypods found at H 12 more closely resembled the pelecypod fauna found at localities in the southern basin, than to that in the northern basin.

The material is deposited at the Zoological Department of the Museum of the Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters.

RESULTS

All the caudofoveate, placophoran, and prosobranch species found during the Petersen-grab survey of Borgenfjorden made between May 1970 and November 1971 are listed below. Both the total numbers of specimens found and the months in which the species occurrred in the material are given. The respective numbers of specimens found during the less efficient sampling period, from September 1967 to April 1970, are shown in brackets. "Outwith" refers to Stn B 22 and "Threshold" to Stn H 12 of the 1970-71 period (see map Fig. 3). Where frequency is reported the abbreviations O, S, T, N refer to Outwith, Southern basin, Threshold, and Northern basin.

Caudofoveata

Chaetoderma nitidulum (Lovén, 1846); (Map 1)

Northern basin: 0 (6 specimens: Desember 1967, July 1968)

Threshold : 3 specimens from June 1970

Southern basin: 5 specimens from April 1970, June 1971, October

1970, and November 1970 (2 specimens: July 1968)

Outwith: 10 specimens from March 1970, May 1970, July 1970,

October 1970, and November 1970 (5 specimens:

December 1967, July 1968)

		0	S	Т	N
Frequency	of total grabs sampled (T)	0.9	0.8	0.3	0
	of grabs sampled within each basin (B)	10.0	1.4	3.3	0

A boreo-arctic species, abundant in Trondheimsfjorden. In Borgenfjorden the species was found with a maximum of four specimens per grab sample.

Polyplacophora

Lepidopleurus asellus (Gmelin, 1791); (Map 3)

Northern basin: 1 specimen from October 1970 (2 specimens: Decem-

ber 1967, July 1968)

Threshold : 3 specimens from July 1971 and August 1971

Southern basin: 0 (51 specimens: October 1967, January 1968, July

1968, September 1968)

Outwith : 264 specimens from February 1971, April 1970, May

1970,71, June 1971, July 1970, August 1970, October

1970, and November 1970 (31 specimens: December

1967, July 1968)

A lusitanian-boreal species, abundant in Trondheimsfjorden. The species seems to be gregarious, since it occurred at times in rather large numbers, maximum 34 per grab.

Tonicella marmorea (Fabricius, 1780); (Map 2)

Northern basin: 0
Threshold: 0
Southern basin: 0

Outwith : 2 specimens from June 1971 (1 specimen: July 1968)

Underwater photography has shown that T. marmorea is commonly present on hard bottom substrates off Rolsöy in the southern basin. An arctic-boreal species, common in Trondheimsfjorden.

Tonicella rubra (Linnaeus, 1767); (Map 2)

Northern basin: 0
Threshold: 0
Southern basin: 0

Outwith : 3 specimens from February 1971, June 1971, and

August 1970

An arctic-boreal species, occurring frequently in Trondheimsfjorden.

Ischnochitona albula (Linnaeus, 1767); (Map 3)

Northern basin: 0
Threshold: 0
Southern basin: 0

Outwith : 1 specimen from July 1970 (1 specimen: July 1968)

An arctic-boreal species, occurring occasionally in Trondheimsfjorden.

Prosobranchia

Puncturella noachina (Linnaeus, 1771); (Map 4)

Northern basin: 0
Threshold: 0
Southern basin: 0

Outwith : 1 specimen from May 1970

An arctic species, abundant in Trondheimsfjorden.

Acmaea testudinalis (Müller, 1776); (Map 4)

Northern basin: 0
Threshold : 0

Southern basin: 0 (1 specimen: June 1968)
Outwith: 1 specimen from July 1971

Underwater photography has shown that this species is frequently found on hard bottom substrates off Rolsøy. An arctic-boreal species, occurring frequently in Trondheimsfjorden.

Acmaea virginea (Müller, 1776); (Map 4)

Northern basin: 0
Threshold : 0
Southern basin: 0

Outwith : 11 specimens from June 1971 and August 1970 (1

specimen: July 1968)

Underwater photography has shown that the species is common on hard bottom substrates off Rolsøy. A lustianian-boreal species, abundant in Trondheimsfjorden.

Lepeta caeca (Müller, 1776); (Map 4)

Northern basin: 0
Threshold: 0
Southern basin: 0

Outwith: 4 specimens from July 1970 and November 1970 (1

specimen: November 1969)

An arctic species, abundant in Trondheimsfjorden.

Gibbula cineraria (Linnaeus, 1758); (Map 5)

Northern basin: 4 specimens from October 1970

Threshold : 0

Southern basin: 2 specimens from October 1970 (8 specimens: July

1967, October 1967, July 1968)

Outwith : 60 specimens from February 1971, June 1971, July

1970, August 1970, October 1970, and November 1970

(7 specimens: July 1968)

		0	S	T	N
	T	3.6	0.2	0	0.3
Frequency	В	38.3	0.3	0	1.2

Outwith Strömmen an average of 2.6 specimens were found in each of the 23 grab samples in which it occurred, indicating an overall density of one specimen per $0.1~\text{m}^2$. A lusitanian-boreal species, occurring frequently in Trondheimsfjorden.

Gibbula tumida (Montagu, 1803); (Map 5)

Northern basin: 1 specimen from October 1970

Threshold : 0

Southern basin: 1 specimen from November 1970

Outwith: 10 specimens from May 1970, June 1971, July 1970,

August 1970, and November 1970

		0	S	T	N
	T	1.4	0.2	0	0.2
Frequency	В	15.0	0.3	0	0.6

A lusitanian-boreal species, common in Trondheimsfjorden.

Margarites groenlandicus (Gmelin, 1791); (Map 6)

Northern basin: 0
Threshold: 0

Southern basin: 0 (8 specimens: October 1967, January 1968, July

1968)

Outwith : 6 specimens from May 1970 and August 1970 (2 specimens: July 1968)

An arctic species, common in Trondheimsfjorden.

Margarites helicinus (Phipps, 1774); (Map 6)

Northern basin: 0
Threshold: 0
Southern basin: 0

Outwith : 3 specimens from May 1970 and August 1970

An arctic-boreal species, occurring frequently in Trondheimsfjorden.

Onoba striata (Adams, 1803); (Map 7)

Northern basin: 1 specimen from June 1971

Threshold : 0
Southern basin: 0
Outwith : 0

A lusitanian-boreal species, occurring frequently in Trondheimsfjorden. It has also been found in Strömmen (E. Lande & Gulliksen 1973).

Hydrobia ulvae (Pennant, 1777); (Map 7)

Not recorded during the period 1970-71, but two specimens were found in the southern basin in July 1968. In the tidal zone of Borgen-fjorden, however, *H. ulvae* has been found at densities of up to 14,297 per m² (Strömgren et al. 1973). This lusitanian-boreal species is also common in Trondheimsfjorden.

Turritella communis Risso, 1826; (Map 8)

Northern basin: 4 specimens from July 1970, August 1970, and October

1970, 1971 (1 specimen: December 1967)

Threshold: 39 specimens from February 1971, May 1970,71, June

1971, July 1971, August 1970,71, October 1970,71,

and November 1970

Southern basin: 665 specimens from February 1971, May 1971, June

1970,71, July 1970,71, August 1970,71, October

1970,71, and November 1970 (123 specimens: October 1967, December 1967, February-March 1968, May-September 1968, August 1969, October 1969)

Outwith : 15 specimens from February 1971, May 1971, June

1970, August 1971, and November 1970 (10 specimens:

December 1967, July 1968, November 1968, August 1969)

T 1.7 25.3 3.0 0.6 Frequency B 18.3 45.3 31.7 2.4

T. communis is a sedentary filter feeder. It is gregarious and may therefore occur at high densities (Yonge 1946). In Borgenfjorden, the largest number of specimens found in a single grab sample was 25. A lusitanian-boreal species, abundant in Trondheimsfjorden.

Bittium reticulatum (da Costa, 1778); (Map 9)

Not recorded during the period 1970-71, one specimen found outwith Borgenfjorden in July 1968. The species is lusitanian-boreal, occurring frequently in Trondheimsfjorden. It is also common in Strömmen (E. Lande & Gulliksen 1973).

Amauropsis islandicus (Gmelin, 1791); (Map 9)

Northern basin: 0
Threshold: 0
Southern basin: 0

Outwith : 1 specimen from February 1971

An arctic-boreal species, occurring occationally in Trondheimsfjorden.

Lunatia intermedia (Philippi, 1836); (Map 10)

Northern basin: 0

Threshold : 0
Southern basin: 0

Outwith : 1 specimen from October 1970

A lusitanian-boreal species, common in Trondheimsfjorden.

Lunatia pallida (Broderip & Sowerby, 1829); (Map 10)

Northern basin: 0
Threshold : 0

Southern basin: 1 specimen from November 1970

Outwith: 11 specimens from May 1971, June 1970, July 1971,

August 1971, November 1970 (5 specimens: July

1968, August 1969, October 1969)

An arctic species, common in Trondheimsfjorden.

Trichotropis borealis Broderip & Sowerby, 1829; (Map 12)

Not recorded during the investigation period 1970-71, 1 specimen found outwith Borgenfjorden in July 1968. An arctic species, occurring frequently in Trondheimsfjorden.

Aporrhais pespelecani (Linnaeus, 1758); (Map 11)

Northern basin: 45 specimens from May 1970,71, August 1970,71,

October 1970, and November 1970 (13 specimens: December 1967, July 1968, August 1969, October

1969, December 1969)

Threshold : 9 specimens from February 1971, May 1971, July

1971, and October 1971

Southern basin: 100 specimens from February 1971, May 1970,71,

August 1970,71, October 1970,71, November 1970, and December 1970 (33 specimens: October 1967, January 1968, May-July 1968, October 1968, March

1969, August 1969, October 1969, December 1969)

Outwith : 3 specimens from May 1971

O S T N
T 0.3 12.4 1.2 5.6

Frequency B 3.3 22.2 13.3 21.8

The largest number of specimens found in a single grab sample was four. A lusitanian-boreal species, common in Trondheimsfjorden.

Velutina velutina (Müller, 1776); (Map 12)

Northern basin: 0 (1 specimen: August 1968)
Threshold: 1 specimen from July 1970

Southern basin: 0 (6 specimens: January 1968, June-July 1968,

August 1969)

Outwith : 6 specimens from February 1971, April 1970, July

1970, and October 1970

A lusitanian-boreal species, occurring frequently in Trondheimsfjorden.

Thais lapillus (Linnaeus, 1758); (Map 13)

Northern basin: 2 specimens from June 1970 and October 1970

Threshold : 0

Southern basin: 0 (2 specimens: October 1967)

Outwith : 0

A boreal species, abundant in Trondheimsfjorden.

Boreotrophon barvicensis (Johnston, 1841); (Map 13)

Northern basin: 0
Threshold: 0
Southern basin: 0

Outwith : 6 specimens from May 1970 and November 1970 (2

specimens: July 1968, August 1969)

A boreal species, abundant in Trondheimsfjorden.

Buccinum undatum (Linnaeus, 1758); (Map 14)

Northern basin: 4 specimens from June 1971, July 1971, October

1970, and November 1970 (7 specimens: December 1967, July-August 1968, October 1969, December

1969)

Threshold : 2 specimens from March 1970 and November 1970

Southern basin: 25 specimens from February 1971, May-August 1970,

71, and October 1970 (23 specimens: October 1967,

December 1967, January 1968, July 1968, August 1969)

Outwith : 2 specimens from July 1970 and August 1970

O S T N
T 0.3 3.3 0.3 0.6
Frequency B 3.3 5.8 3.3 2.4

A boreo-arctic species, abundant in Trondheimsfjorden.

Neptunea despecta (Linnaeus, 1758); (Map 15)

Northern basin: 0 (2 specimens: July 1968, August 1969)

Threshold : 1 specimen from October 1971

Southern basin: 0 (but known from earlier dredge samples from 30 m

depth off Rolsöy)

Outwith : 0

An arctic-boreal species, abundant in Trondheimsfjorden.

Nassarius reticulatus (Linnaeus, 1758); (Map 15)

Northern basin: 6 specimens from May 1971, June 1971, August 1970,

and November 1970

Threshold : 0

Southern basin: 2 specimens from July 1971 and August 1971 (1

specimen: May 1968)

Outwith : 0

A lusitanian-boreal species, occurring frequently in Trondheimsfjorden.

Oenopota harpularia (Couthouy, 1838); (Map 16)

Northern basin: 4 specimens from May 1971, August 1971, October

1971, and November 1970 (1 specimen: December 1967)

Threshold : 0
Southern basin: 0
Outwith : 0

An arctic-boreal species, occurring occasionally in Trondheimsfjorden.

DISCUSSION

During the whole investigation period (1967-71), one species of Caudofoveata, four species of Polyplacophora, and 24 species of Prosobranchia have been found in the Petersen grab material. Three of the prosobranch species (viz. Hydrobia ulvae, Bittium reticulatum, and Trichotropis borealis) were not recorded during the more intensive sampling period 1970-71. However, H. ulvae is found abundantly on soft bottom substrates within the tidal zone in Borgenfjorden (Strömgren et al. 1973), and B. reticulatum is common in Strömmen (E. Lande & Gulliksen 1973).

Of the here treated 29 molluscan species recorded during 1967-1971, 24 were recorded at the stations lying outwith Strömmen, 15 in the southern basin, seven on the threshold between the southern and the northern basins, and 13 in the northern basin. The number of species common to more than one area are shown in a Venn-diagram (Fig. 4).

Probably the total number of polyplacophoran and prosobranch species in Borgenfjorden is higher than that reported in this paper. All grab samples were collected from 10 m depth, or deeper; i.e. species restricted to shallower areas, and the hard bottom substrates, are therefore likely to be under-represented in the present material.

It is interesting to note that of the 26 species recorded

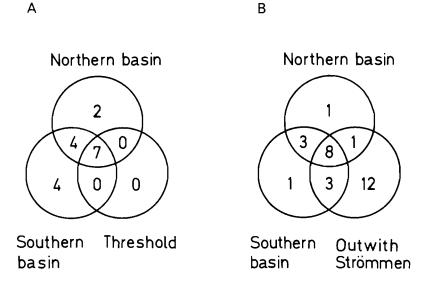


Fig. 4. Venn-diagrams showing the species distribution, a: in Borgenfjorden proper, b: in the three main distribution areas.

during 1970-71, 11 (42.3%) are more typically epifaunal organisms; most of them have probably been present on small stones or dead shells in the grab material.

During the 1970-71 sampling period a total av 585 grab samples, comprising 931 specimens, were obtained from Borgenfjorden proper. Six of the 14 species recorded during this period (Chaetoderma nitidulum, Gibbula cineraria, Turritella communis, Aporrhais pespelecani, Buccinum undatum, Nassarius reticulatus) occurred with a total of more than five specimens each (Tabel I). T. communis and A. pespelecani seem to be abundant on soft bottom substrates in Borgenfjorden proper, constituting 76% and 16.5% respectively of the total number of individuals sampled. The less abundant Ch. nitidulum, B. undatum, and N. reticulatus are probably also relatively common soft bottom animals in the fjord. Four of the species, Onoba striata, Lunatia pallida, Velutina velutina, and Neptunea despecta, were only represented by a single specimen.

Outwith Strömmen, 62.7% of all specimens collected were Lepidopleurus asellus. Gibbula cineraria accounted for 14%, Turritella communis 3.6%, and Chaetoderma nitidulum, Acmaea virginea, Gibbula tumida, and Lunatia pallida 2.5% each.

Some information about the predators of gastropods is known from Borgenfjorden. Apporhais pespelecani, Velutina velutina, and Buccinum undatum have been found in the guts of plaice (R. Lande 1972, 1973), and Turritella communis, V. velutina, and B. undatum in the guts of cod (Denstadli 1972). B. undatum was common, the other species were more sparsely recorded. One specimen of T. communis has also been found in the stomach contents of Ophiura albida (Skjæveland 1973). In this respect it is interesting to note that T. communis, A. pespelecani, and B. undatum are the three most abundant benthic species. V. velutina, too, is probably more common than the results of the grab samples would indicate, since it is often found when dredging on hard bottom substrates.

From a zoogeographic viewpoint, 82.8% of the sampled are either arctic (41.4%) or lusitanian-boreal (41.4%) in their main distributions (Tabel II). The lusitanian-boreal element is predominant in Borgenfjorden proper, and the arctic element is less pronounced in the northern than in the southern basin (15.4% and 26.7% resp.). E. Lande (1975) found that within these two basins, 25-26%

Table I. Total number of specimens of the different species recorded at each of the sampling stations between May 1970 and October 1971. The main zoogeographical distribution of each species is also indicated (A = arctic, AB = arctic-boreal, B = boreal, LB = lusitanian-boreal)

Species	Zoo- geogr. distr.	в 22	G 21	I 19	G 17	н 17	I 17	J 17	н 12	н 7	н 6	к 3	Total: whole area	Total: Borgen- fjorden proper	_
Caudofoveata															
Chaetoderma nitidulum	AB	10	2	1	2				3				18	8	
Polyplacophora															
Lepidopleurus asellus	LB	264							3	1			268	4	x
Tonicella marmorea	AB	2											2	-	×
Tonicella rubra	AB	3											3	-	x
Ichnochitona albula	AB	1											1	-	x
Prosobranchia															
Puncturella noachina	A	1											1	-	x
Acmaea testudinalis	AB	1											1	-	×
Acmaea virginea	LB	11											11	-	×
Lepeta caeca	Α	4											4	-	x
Gibbula cineraria	LB	60					2			4			66	6	
Gibbula tumida	LB	10						1		1			12	2	
Margarites groenlandicus	Α	6											6	-	
Margarites helicinus	AB	3											3	-	×
Onoba striata	LB									1			_	1	
Turitella communis	LB	15	16	200	22	216	167	44	39	1	2	1	723	708	
Amauropsis islandicus	AB	1											1	-	
Lunatia intermedia	LB	1											1	-	
Lunatia pallida	Α	11			1								12	1	
Aporrhais pespelecani	LB	3	20	18	9	8	12	33	9	5	30	10	157	154	
Velutina velutina	LB	6							1				7	1	×
Thais lapillus	В										1	1	-	2	x
Boreotrophon barvicensis	В	6											6	-	
Buccinum undatum	AB	2	3	1	14	4	3		2	1	2	1	33	31	
Neptunea despecta	AB								1				-	1	
Nassarius reticulatus	LB					1	1				1	5	-	8	
Oenopota harpularia	AB											4	-	4	

Table II. Zoogeographical distributions of the combined Caudofoveata, Polyplacophora, and Prosobranchia species
sampled with the Petersen grab in various parts of
Borgenfjorden during the period September 1967 October 1971. The total numbers (N) and percentage
representations (%) are given in each case

	Outwith Strömmen		Southern basin		Northern basin		Total for whole area	
	N	%	N	8	N	%	N 	8
Arctic, arctic- boreal	10	43.5	4	26.7	2	15.4	12	41.4
Boreal, Boreo- arctic	4	17.4	3	20.0	3	23.1	5	17.2
Lusitanian-boreal	9	39.1	8	53.3	8	61.5	12	41.4
	23	100	15	100	13	100	29	100

of the pelecypod species have an arctic main distribution. For other benthic groups, i.e. Polychaeta (Holthe 1973), Echinodermata (Skjæveland 1972), and Ascidiacea (Gulliksen 1974), the arctic element dominates the species composition in both basins.

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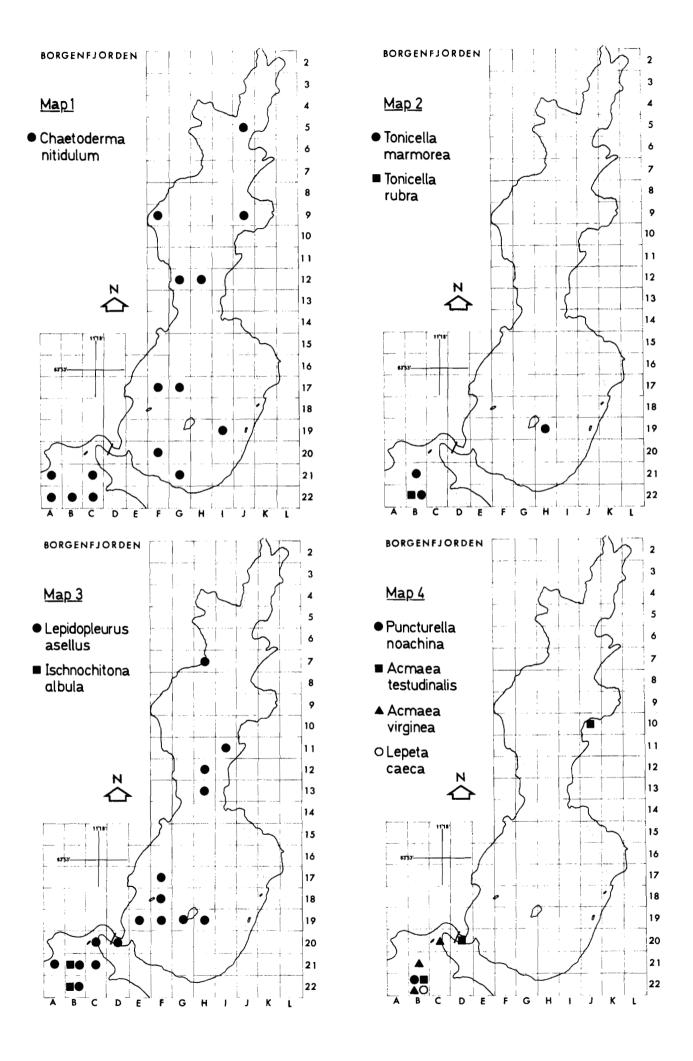
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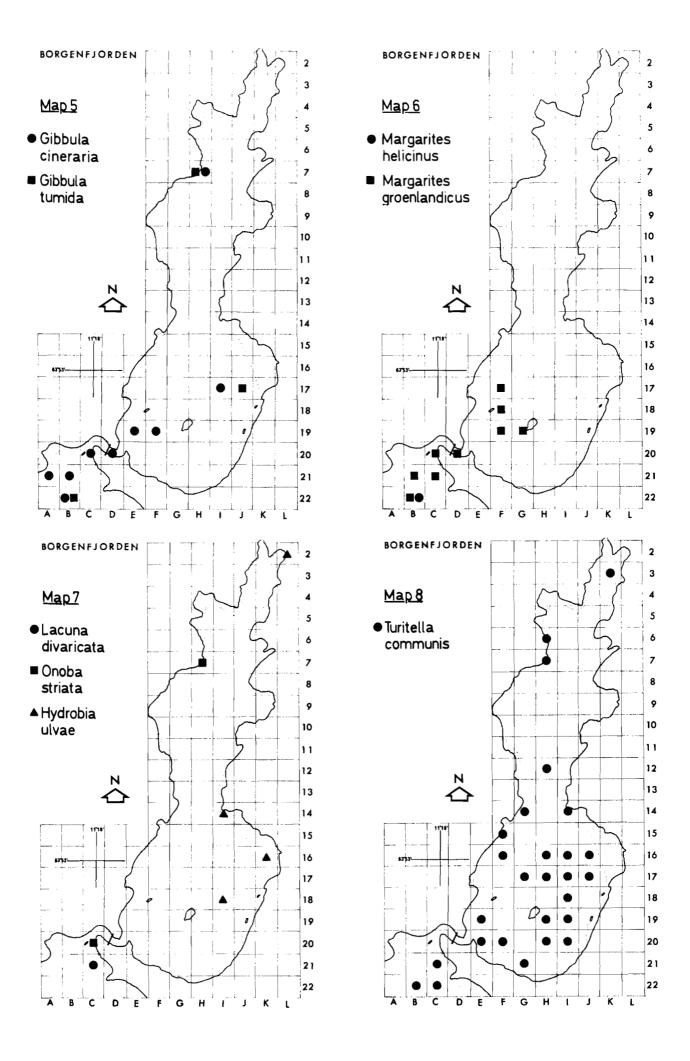
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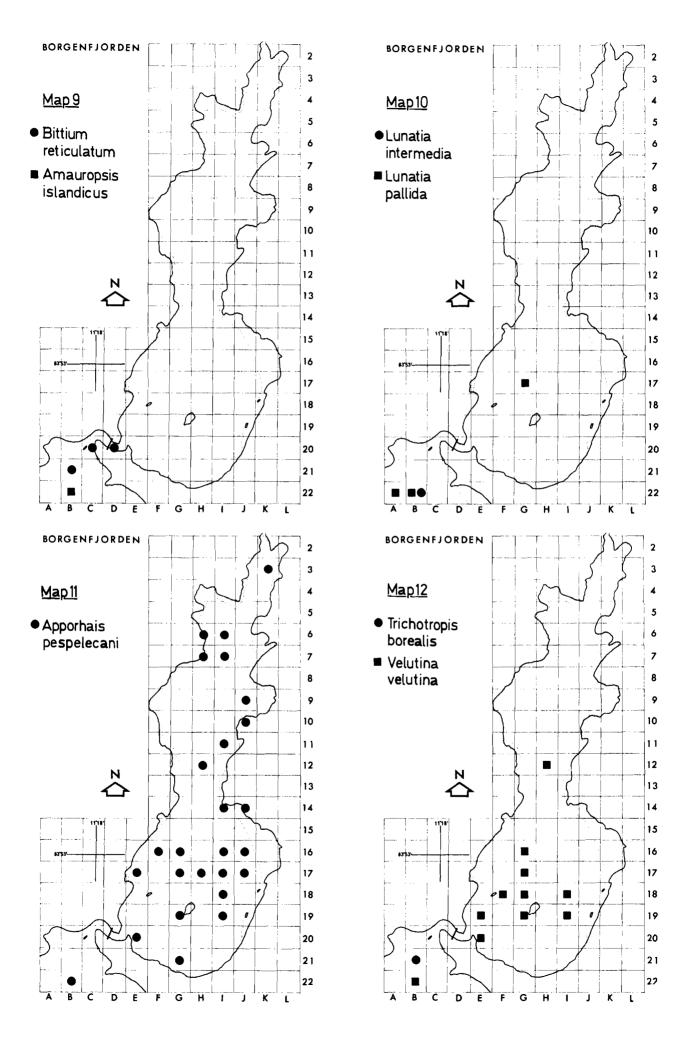
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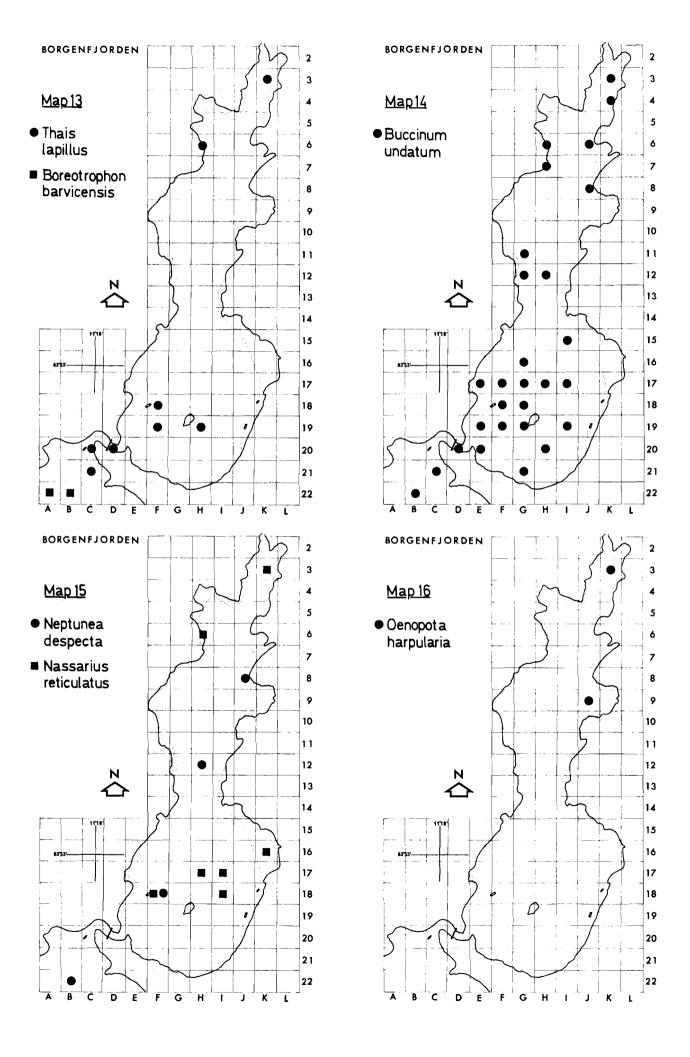
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