{rokbox title=|Map of Alicante Bay and sites sampled for the presence of R. okamurae on beach-cast or at the infralittoral zone :: Image: Authors|images/stories/ieo/imagenespublicaciones/centro-oceanografico-baleares-ieo-csic-outbreak-invasive-macroalgae-gran-2023-thumb-et-al.jpg|}images/stories/ieo/imagenespublicaciones/centro-oceanografico-baleares-ieo-csic-outbreak-invasive-macroalgae-gran-2023-et-al.jpg{/rokbox}

Marc Terradas-Fernández, Carolina Pena-Martín, Miguel Valverde-Urrea, **Alicia Gran**, Fabio Blanco-Murillo, Laura Leyva, Eleuterio Abellán-Gallardo,Esther Beresaluze, Andrés Izquierdo, Yoana del Pilar-Ruso, Javier Aguilar, Yolanda Fernández-Torquemada, 2023.
An outbreak of the invasive macroalgae Rugulopteryx okamurae in Alicante Bay and its colonization on dead Posidonia oceanica matte.
.Aquatic Botany.Volume 189.November 2023.103706.
https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aquabot.2023.103706

Abstract:We report the first occurrence of Rugulopteryx okamurae in Alicante Bay, the northernmost location in the Iberian Mediterranean where this species was detected. Collected specimens were studied using a morphological and molecular approach. A rapid assessment survey was conducted to assess its presence and abundance in the nearest beach-cast and infralittoral areas. The highest abundance was found over dead P. oceanica matte, occupying an important extension in the bay. We found detached fragments of R. okamurae dispersed by local hydrodynamics, accumulating on some tourist beaches in the region. The potential suitability of the Mediterranean for its spread necessitates monitoring programs to study its variation over time and potential impacts on native biota.

Keywords:Exotic species,Non-indigenous macroalgae,Rugulopteryx okamurae,Mediterranean sea,Dead,Posidonia oceanica matte,Alicante Bay.