

{rokbox title=|Central eléctrica de GESA del Puerto de Mahón (Menorca) :: Foto: Marta Sales, COB-IEO|
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Marta Sales, Emma Cebrian, Fiona Tomas, Enric Ballesteros, (2011). [Pollution impacts and recovery potential in three species of the genus *Cystoseira* \(Fucales, Heterokontophyta\).](#)

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Abstract: Macroalgae of the genus *Cystoseira* are experiencing substantial decline in the Mediterranean Sea, which has been generally attributed to increased pollution. A field experiment was conducted to examine the effects of pollution in three

Cystoseira

species and to study the recovery potential of

Cystoseira

populations after water quality improvement.

Cystoseira

specimens were transplanted from a non-polluted area to two areas displaying different levels of pollution, where the disappearance of

Cystoseira

stands had been documented. Reduced survival and growth of specimens at the highly polluted area suggested that the disappearance of

Cystoseira

stands was due to heavy metal pollution. Meanwhile, the healthy state exhibited by specimens transplanted to the slightly polluted area, especially by

Cystoseira barbata

, indicated that the current water quality in this area was good enough for the recovery of

Cystoseira

populations. The method used to transplant

Cystoseira

specimens is suggested as a tool for restoring extinct populations.

Keywords: *Cystoseira*, heavy metals, Mediterranean Sea, pollution, recovery, transplantation