LATITUDINAL VARIABILITY OF MICROZOOPLANKTON GROWTH AND MORTALITY

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Latitudinal variation of phytoplankton growth rates and mortality by microzooplankton grazing estimated from dilution experiments was reviewed from published data. Preliminary results show a slight and similar influence of temperature on phytoplankton growth (Q_{10}=1.6) and mortality rates (Q_{10}=1.5). Smaller rates were observed at higher latitudes. However, there was no clear variation of phytoplankton growth and mortality rates by microzooplankton grazing in tropical, sub-tropical and temperate regions. Microzooplankton ingestion and growth were also assessed from respiration rates using data from the literature. The results obtained from the latitudinal variation of growth using the data reviewed from the dilution method and those of respiration are compared.