**Introduction**

*Posidonia oceanica* prairies play a significant role in temperate and tropical coastal marine systems, mostly in the structuring of habitats through the production of organic matter and oxygen. In the Tyrrhenian Sea (Vulcano Island), comparative studies on recent epiphytic foraminifera have been carried out only by Langer (1993). Preliminary analyses conducted on several samples of *Posidonia oceanica* allowed us to observe foraminifera in their living position and habitat. This study focuses on permanent or temporarily stationary foraminifera that are firmly attached to leaves by the secretion of adhesive materials such as glycosaminoglycans which could eventually become calcified (Langer, 1992). In order to study the living epiphytic assemblage only the foraminifera still attached to the *Posidonia* leaves have been considered. Living foraminifera (Rose Bengal stained) present in the sediment of *Posidonia* meadows, although alive at the sampling time, should not always be considered epiphytic because they could simply live in the sediment characterized by *Posidonia* meadows.

**Methods**

Several sheaves (6-7 leaves each) of *P. oceanica* have been sampled by a scuba diver in the seagrass habitat of Ischia Island and Ponza Island (Tyrrhenian Sea) at five stations comprised between 15 and 22 m water depth. The *Posidonia* leaves were immediately cut and immersed in a solution of distilled water and ethanol to preserve both the organic matter and the carbonate. The samples were initially studied at the optic binocular microscope to record the whole living assemblage that consists of foraminifera, still in their living position, bryozaans, polychaets and the calcareous algae *Hydrothorax*, *Melobesia* and *Pneophyllum* (Corallinaceae, Rhodophyta). Subsequently, pieces of the leaves with foraminifera have were on stubs and photographed at the SEM and with a digital camera. Qualitative analyses of the foraminiferal content allowed us to recognize many epiphytic foraminifera. These are all haline taxa belonging to Cibicididae, Homotremaidae, Planorbulinidae and Rosaliniidae. The most abundant species are *Cyclococciides vermiculatus*, *Lobatula lobatula*, *Miniacina miniaica*, *Neoconorobina posidonica*, *Planorbulina mediterranea*, *Rosalina bradyi* and *Tretophthalmus concinns*.* Electra posidonia* and *Lichenopora radiata* are the most abundant bryozaans.

**References**


