**Supplementary table S1: Basic statistics of planktonic cnidarian species from shelf, WBCS and SECS in the Western Tropical South Atlantic Ocean off Northeast Brazil during autumn 2017. Mean abundance (ind. 100 m−3) and standard deviation, range of non-zero abundance, frequency of occurrence (f; considering all areas).**

| **Taxa** | **Shelf** | | **WBCS** | | **SECS** | | **Freq (%)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Mean ± SD** | **Range** | **Mean ± SD** | **Range** | **Mean ± SD** | **Range** |
| **Hydromedusae** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Aglaura hemistoma* Péron & Lesueur, 1810 | 110.93 ± 100.22 | 15.82 - 310.55 | 14.11 ± 12.78 | 0.31 - 41.46 | 28.33 ± 26.64 | 2.74 - 107.83 | 95.56 |
| *Liriope tetraphylla* (Chamisso & Eysenhardt, 1821) | 215.56 ± 236.41 | 4.09 - 770.3 | 5.46 ± 6.19 | 0.6 - 22.1 | 3.27 ± 3.62 | 1.37 - 12.88 | 84.44 |
| *Aequorea* spp. | 0.72 ± 1.46 | 3.13 - 4.09 | 0.98 ± 2.41 | 0.31 - 10.72 | 11.52 ± 13.05 | 2.15 - 38.32 | 51.11 |
| *Cytaeis* spp. | 0.56 ± 1.68 | 5.6 - 5.6 | 0.33 ± 0.51 | 0.6 - 1.38 | 0.77 ± 1.07 | 1.37 - 3.01 | 26.67 |
| *Solmundella bitentaculata* (Quoy & Gaimard, 1833) | 0.2 ± 0.61 | 2.04 - 2.04 | 0.37 ± 0.74 | 0.6 - 2.68 | 0.38 ± 0.62 | 1.04 - 1.75 | 22.22 |
| *Laodicea* sp. | 6.5 ± 15.85 | 2.26 - 53.3 | 1.44 ± 3.6 | 5.33 - 13.75 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 13.33 |
| *Annatiara affinis* (Hartlaub, 1914) | 0.19 ± 0.58 | 1.93 - 1.93 | 0.11 ± 0.27 | 0.47 - 0.86 | 0.1 ± 0.35 | 1.36 - 1.36 | 11.11 |
| *Cirrholovenia tetranema* Kramp, 1959 | 2.15 ± 4.68 | 1.74 - 15.68 | 0.09 ± 0.27 | 0.86 - 0.92 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 11.11 |
| *Proboscidactyla ornata* (McCrady, 1859) | 1.01 ± 2.52 | 1.74 - 8.4 | 0.23 ± 0.87 | 0.51 - 3.9 | 0.1 ± 0.35 | 1.37 - 1.37 | 11.11 |
| *Zanclea* spp. | 1.13 ± 3.39 | 11.3 - 11.3 | 0.14 ± 0.35 | 0.47 - 1.3 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 8.89 |
| *Bougainvillia platygaster* (Haeckel, 1879) | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.1 ± 0.24 | 0.46 - 0.84 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 6.67 |
| *Clytia* spp. | 0.56 ± 1.68 | 5.6 - 5.6 | 0.07 ± 0.29 | 1.3 - 1.3 | 0.15 ± 0.55 | 2.15 - 2.15 | 6.67 |
| *Cunina octonaria* McCrady, 1859 | 21.36 ± 59.08 | 2.36 - 198.23 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 6.67 |
| *Amphinema* spp. | 0.66 ± 1.32 | 3.13 - 3.48 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 4.44 |
| *Bougainvillia muscus* (Allman, 1863) | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.05 ± 0.15 | 0.47 - 0.51 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 4.44 |
| *Cnidocodon leopoldi* Bouillon, 1978 | 1.12 ± 3.36 | 11.2 - 11.2 | 0.02 ± 0.1 | 0.46 - 0.46 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 4.44 |
| Eirenidae spp. | 2.09 ± 6.26 | 20.87 - 20.87 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.08 ± 0.28 | 1.07 - 1.07 | 4.44 |
| *Hydractynia* sp. | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.06 ± 0.17 | 0.47 - 0.6 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 4.44 |
| *Pegantha triloba* Haeckel, 1879 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.15 ± 0.44 | 1.04 - 1.72 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 4.44 |
| *Porpita porpita* (Linnaeus, 1758) | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.05 ± 0.17 | 0.31 - 0.72 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 4.44 |
| *Rhopalonema velatum* Gegenbaur, 1857 | 0.45 ± 1.36 | 4.52 - 4.52 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.1 ± 0.37 | 1.43 - 1.43 | 4.44 |
| Anthomedusae sp.4 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.03 ± 0.11 | 0.51 - 0.51 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 2.22 |
| Anthomedusae sp.5 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.06 ± 0.27 | 1.19 - 1.19 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 2.22 |
| *Corymorpha gracilis* (Brooks, 1883) | 0.65 ± 1.95 | 6.5 - 6.5 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 2.22 |
| *Pegantha rubiginosa* (Kölliker, 1853) | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.08 ± 0.28 | 1.07 - 1.07 | 2.22 |
| Cf. *Pelagohydra* sp. | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.06 ± 0.26 | 1.19 - 1.19 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 2.22 |
| Rhopalonematidae sp. | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.05 ± 0.19 | 0.86 - 0.86 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 2.22 |
| *Tetracanna octonema* Goy, 1979 | 0.17 ± 0.52 | 1.74 - 1.74 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 2.22 |
| *Velella velella* (Linnaeus, 1758) | 0.2 ± 0.61 | 2.04 - 2.04 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 2.22 |
| **Siphonophores** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Abylopsis eschscholtzii* (Huxley, 1859) | 9 ± 5.4 | 2.17 - 19.13 | 5.35 ± 5.6 | 0.47 - 19.22 | 30.58 ± 17.36 | 5.45 - 67.59 | 95.56 |
| *Bassia bassensis* (Quoy & Gaimard, 1833) | 10.03 ± 8.36 | 2.8 - 26.54 | 7.93 ± 6.45 | 2.51 - 26.01 | 55.03 ± 34.22 | 8.17 - 154.89 | 95.56 |
| *Chelophyes appendiculata* (Eschscholtz, 1829) | 41.8 ± 37.14 | 6.27 - 98.07 | 18.58 ± 13.53 | 3.58 - 55.89 | 9.51 ± 8.86 | 1.37 - 35.01 | 93.33 |
| *Diphyes bojani* (Eschscholtz, 1825) | 19.45 ± 30.65 | 3.48 - 99.47 | 17.9 ± 13.42 | 5.62 - 55.18 | 65.44 ± 41.21 | 10.94 - 171.43 | 91.11 |
| *Eudoxoides mitra* (Huxley, 1859) | 0.82 ± 1.27 | 2.26 - 3.13 | 11.16 ± 5.86 | 1.63 - 25.23 | 46.39 ± 29.96 | 7.08 - 109.51 | 84.44 |
| *Sulculeolaria chuni* (Lens & van Riemsdijk, 1908) | 4.29 ± 4.87 | 1.74 - 14.3 | 2.46 ± 2.46 | 0.51 - 11.04 | 4.32 ± 2.8 | 1.04 - 9.53 | 84.44 |
| *Abylopsis tetragona* (Otto, 1823) | 2.93 ± 5.91 | 1.74 - 20.35 | 2.85 ± 1.76 | 1.28 - 6.58 | 5.3 ± 3.95 | 1.36 - 12.77 | 82.22 |
| *Diphyes dispar* Chamisso & Eysenhardt, 1821 | 2.47 ± 1.54 | 1.93 - 4.73 | 2.47 ± 3 | 0.67 - 11.56 | 2.48 ± 1.76 | 1.04 - 5.31 | 77.78 |
| *Eudoxoides spiralis* (Bigelow, 1911) | 3.23 ± 6.74 | 4.09 - 22.61 | 2.11 ± 1.99 | 0.92 - 6 | 5.52 ± 4.93 | 1.61 - 17.5 | 64.44 |
| *Lensia meteori* (Leloup, 1934) | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 4.03 ± 3.33 | 0.72 - 11.87 | 0.63 ± 0.76 | 1.04 - 2.14 | 48.89 |
| *Cordagalma ordinatum* (Haeckel, 1888) | 0.45 ± 1.36 | 4.52 - 4.52 | 0.25 ± 0.44 | 0.6 - 1.3 | 4.74 ± 2.99 | 1.04 - 10.5 | 46.67 |
| *Nanomia bijuga* (Delle Chiaje, 1844) | 1.4 ± 1.44 | 2.26 - 3.48 | 0.09 ± 0.23 | 0.31 - 0.86 | 1.8 ± 2.56 | 1.36 - 10.02 | 35.56 |
| *Ceratocymba leuckartii* (Huxley, 1859) | 0.31 ± 0.94 | 3.14 - 3.14 | 0.26 ± 0.41 | 0.31 - 1.34 | 0.57 ± 0.69 | 1.04 - 1.75 | 33.33 |
| *Lensia* spp. | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.93 ± 1.89 | 0.46 - 7.99 | 1.67 ± 1.78 | 1.06 - 5.73 | 33.33 |
| *Agalma okenii* Eschscholtz, 1825 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.37 ± 0.52 | 0.51 - 1.41 | 0.59 ± 0.86 | 1.04 - 2.72 | 28.89 |
| *Vogtia glabra* Bigelow, 1918 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.42 ± 0.56 | 0.31 - 1.68 | 0.53 ± 0.72 | 1.36 - 1.77 | 28.89 |
| *Muggiaea kochii* (Will, 1844) | 65.27 ± 68.44 | 25.08 - 184.46 | 2.54 ± 8.74 | 1.28 - 39.39 | 0.08 ± 0.28 | 1.07 - 1.07 | 26.67 |
| *Sulculeolaria biloba* (Sars, 1846) | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 2.11 ± 3.66 | 0.47 - 13 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 17.78 |
| *Agalma elegans* (Sars, 1846) | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.16 ± 0.38 | 0.72 - 1.28 | 0.4 ± 1.17 | 1.04 - 4.51 | 13.33 |
| *Hippopodius hippopus* (Forsskål, 1776) | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.09 ± 0.23 | 0.47 - 0.82 | 0.12 ± 0.42 | 1.61 - 1.61 | 13.33 |
| *Lensia fowleri* (Bigelow, 1911) | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.95 ± 1.2 | 1.43 - 3.22 | 13.33 |
| *Amphicaryon acaule* Chun, 1888 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.1 ± 0.32 | 0.6 - 1.33 | 0.32 ± 0.62 | 1.07 - 1.75 | 11.11 |
| *Lensia cossack* Totton, 1941 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.1 ± 0.23 | 0.6 - 0.67 | 0.34 ± 0.87 | 1.77 - 3.01 | 11.11 |
| *Sulculeolaria turgida* (Gegenbaur, 1854) | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.04 ± 0.15 | 0.67 - 0.67 | 0.53 ± 1.12 | 1.04 - 3.5 | 11.11 |
| *Halistemma rubrum* (Vogt, 1852) | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.12 ± 0.36 | 0.94 - 1.34 | 0.21 ± 0.52 | 1.37 - 1.61 | 8.89 |
| *Lensia hotspur* Totton, 1941 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.15 ± 0.4 | 0.31 - 1.53 | 0.11 ± 0.39 | 1.5 - 1.5 | 8.89 |
| *Chuniphyes* sp. | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.34 ± 0.69 | 1.04 - 2.15 | 6.67 |
| *Forskalia contorta* (Milne Edwards, 1841) | 0.56 ± 1.68 | 5.6 - 5.6 | 0.09 ± 0.3 | 0.31 - 1.33 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 6.67 |
| *Lensia leloupi* Totton, 1954 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.75 ± 2.97 | 0.92 - 13.31 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 6.67 |
| *Physophora hydrostatica* Forsskål, 1775 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.14 ± 0.35 | 0.47 - 1.34 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 6.67 |
| *Abyla* sp. | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.04 ± 0.18 | 0.79 - 0.79 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 4.44 |
| *Amphicaryon ernesti* Totton, 1954 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.19 ± 0.48 | 1.06 - 1.61 | 4.44 |
| *Athorybia rosacea* (Forsskål, 1775) | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.22 ± 0.55 | 1.5 - 1.61 | 4.44 |
| *Lensia campanella* (Moser, 1917) | 2.26 ± 6.78 | 22.61 - 22.61 | 0.03 ± 0.11 | 0.51 - 0.51 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 4.44 |
| *Lensia subtiloides* (Lens & van Riemsdijk, 1908) | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.11 ± 0.32 | 0.72 - 1.3 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 4.44 |
| *Sulculeolaria monoica* (Chun, 1888) | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.05 ± 0.21 | 0.93 - 0.93 | 0.12 ± 0.43 | 1.66 - 1.66 | 4.44 |
| Torybia | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.12 ± 0.37 | 0.86 - 1.45 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 4.44 |
| *Dimophyes arctica* (Chun, 1897) | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.12 ± 0.43 | 1.66 - 1.66 | 2.22 |
| *Lensia conoidea* (Keferstein & Ehlers, 1860) | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.02 ± 0.07 | 0.31 - 0.31 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 2.22 |
| *Lensia hardy* Totton, 1941 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.11 ± 0.41 | 1.61 - 1.61 | 2.22 |
| *Lensia multicristata* (Moser, 1925) | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.15 ± 0.55 | 2.15 - 2.15 | 2.22 |
| Prayidae spp. | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.04 ± 0.19 | 0.84 - 0.84 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 2.22 |
| *Vogtia pentacantha* Kölliker, 1853 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 0.13 ± 0.45 | 1.75 - 1.75 | 2.22 |
| **Scyphomedusae** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| *Nausithoe* spp. | 2.28 ± 6.09 | 2.36 - 20.41 | 0.37 ± 0.83 | 0.84 - 3.15 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 13.33 |
| *Nausithoe punctata* Kölliker, 1853 | 0.28 ± 0.84 | 2.8 - 2.8 | 0.26 ± 0.7 | 0.47 - 2.45 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 8.89 |
| Efira | 0.38 ± 0.76 | 1.74 - 2.04 | 0.05 ± 0.2 | 0.92 - 0.92 | 0 ± 0 | 0 - 0 | 6.67 |
| *Nausithoe maculata* Jarms, 1990 | 1.23 ± 3.68 | 12.26 - 12.26 | 0.07 ± 0.3 | 1.33 - 1.33 | 0.13 ± 0.45 | 1.75 - 1.75 | 6.67 |
| **Anthozoa** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cerinula | 0.2 ± 0.61 | 2.04 - 2.04 | 1.06 ± 1.64 | 0.46 - 6.66 | 2.7 ± 2.06 | 1.07 - 8.07 | 53.33 |