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8	Abstract
9	Megabenthic community on the continental shelf of the Yucatan Peninsula was evaluated
10	during November 2015 and April 2016. Samples were collected at sixteen sites with a trawl
11	net within a depth range of 50 to 200 m, in three sectors (west, central and east) relative to the
12	Yucatan Current. Total abundance was 228,545 Ind km ⁻² which represent a total biomass
13	value of 456.43 kg AFDW km ⁻² . Main abundant taxa were crustaceans and mollusks (94,974
14	Ind km ⁻² and 88,891 Ind km ⁻² , respectively), while crustaceans and poriferans showed highest
15	biomass values (352.5 kg AFDW km ⁻² and 35 kg AFDW km ⁻² , respectively). Achelous
16	spinicarpus (53,938 Ind km ⁻²) and Turritela radula (21,577 Ind km ⁻²) were the most abundant
17	species, meanwhile highest contribution to the community biomass was provided by <i>P. argus</i>
18	(146 kg AFDW km ⁻²) and A. spinicarpus (45 kg AFDW km ⁻²). Abundance and biomass
19	values were higher in the west sector than the others. Values for H' fluctuated from 0.55 to
20	3.34, with the highest values in the west sector. Evenness was high at almost all sampling
21	sites. Multisite beta diversity had values of $Beta_{sor} > 0.85$, $Beta_{sim} > 0.78$ and $Beta_{nest} < 0.09$.

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