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Sperm motility patterns as a tool for evaluating differences in sperm quality across gonad development stages in the sea urchin *Paracentrotus lividus* (Lmk, 1816).

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## Abstract

Reproductive biotechnologies provide innovative support tools which are increasingly being applied to aquatic species. The development of tools for the assessment of changes in gamete quality as a function of gonad stage is a key issue in the establishment of species-specific protocols for gamete management and embryo production that guarantee the supply of high quality samples.

The aim of the present study was to evaluate the sperm motility parameters, during the various phases of the gonad cycle, of *Paracentrotus lividus* specimens sampled from a population living along the mid-to-lower Adriatic coast of Italy. In this location, particularly favourable environmental conditions enable a prolonged reproductive period, and gonads containing mature gametes (whether developing or relict after spawning events)

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