Direct observations of groups of mysids in shallow coastal waters of western Japan and southern Korea

S. Ohtsuka¹, H. Inagaki², T. Onbe², K. Gushima², Y. H. Yoon³

¹ Fisheries Laboratory, Hiroshima University, Takehara, Hiroshima 725, Japan
² Faculty of Applied Biological Sciences, Hiroshima University, Higashi-Hiroshima 739, Japan
³ Department of Oceanography, Yosu National Fisheries University, Yosu 550-749, Korea

ABSTRACT: Groups (swarms, schools or aggregations) of mysids occurring in shallow coastal waters of western Japan and southern Korea were directly observed by SCUBA and skin divers during the day. Formation of groups was seen in 16 species belonging to the family Mysidae. These groups were often polyspecific, composed of 1 dominant species accounting for 50 to 100% of the number of individuals in the group and 0 to 5 guest species. Nipponomysis spp., Prionomysis aspera and Tenagomysis sp. formed flat, carpet-like or discoid swarms over sandy bottoms. Anisomysis aikawai, A. ijimai, A. mixta, A. pelewensis, Anisomysis spp., Lycomysis bispina, Nipponomysis sp., Paracanthomysis hispida, Siriella sp., and an unidentified leptomysid aggregated in shapes of ovals, spheres and columns. L. bispina and P. hispida were associated with algal beds. Other swarms were located near isolated rocks over sandy bottoms, near the edges of corals or along the seashore. Swarms were classified into 2 types in terms of mobility: stationary and migratory; however, the mobility of the swarms was changeable with season and with sexual maturity. Most swarms were made up of various developmental stages, but some swarms of A. aikawai and A. ijimai consisted only of juveniles. Densities of mysids in a swarm ranged from 13 to 571 ind. l^{-1} Sex ratios (σ/ϕ) of immature and mature males and females within a group varied between 0.22 and 2.40. Possible adaptive values of mysid groupings are discussed on the basis of present and previous findings: (1) antipredation, (2) maintenance of favorable position, and (3) feeding.

KEY WORDS: Mysid · Swarm · School Aggregation · Group

INTRODUCTION

Zooplankters such as copepods, mysids and euphausiids have been observed to actively form swarms and schools (e.g. Clutter 1969, Mauchline 1971, Wittmann 1977, Hamner & Carleton 1979, Omori & Hamner 1982, Ueda et al. 1983, Tanimura et al. 1984, Kimoto et al. 1988, O'Brien 1988a, b, Inagaki 1990). Various adaptive functions have been postulated by these authors to explain the active grouping of these zooplankters, i.e. maintaining a position within a favorable habitat, reducing dispersal by currents, enhancing antipredation, facilitation of breeding, and contributing to population regulation. In particular, the first 4 functions have been suggested to be most important (Clutter 1969, Hamner & Carleton 1979, Omori & Hamner 1982, O'Brien 1988b). On the other hand, it was suggested by Tanaka et al. (1987a, b) that copepod swarms may provide a favorable food source for juvenile fishes.

Gregarious behaviors of mysids have so far been investigated both in the field and laboratory (e.g. Steven 1961, Emery 1968, Clutter 1969, Zelickman 1974, Wittmann 1977, Omori & Hamner 1982, Kakimoto et al. 1983, Morioka & Kimoto 1986, O'Brien et al. 1986, O'Brien 1988b, O'Brien & Ritz 1988). However, direct observations on mysid groups have never been made in detail in Japanese and Korean waters, although mysids are one of the most important food items for juveniles of coastal fishes such as halibut and sea bream (e.g. Imabayashi 1980, Kiso 1980, 1981). The present paper deals with the characteristic properties, such as shapes, behaviors, substrate association, densities, species and stage compositions, and sex ratios, of mysid groups occurring in the shallow waters of western Japan and southern Korea and discusses the present results in comparison with previous findings.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Several terms such as swarm, school, shoal and cluster have been introduced to describe the morphology of mysid groups (Clutter 1969, Mauchline 1971, Wittmann 1977, O'Brien 1988b). According to O'Brien (1988b), active, integrated aggregations of mysids can be 'facultative' and 'obligate'; the former is caused by both intrinsic and extrinsic factors and the latter only by internal biological mechanisms. However, it is difficult to distinguish the latter from the former *in situ*. Therefore, the terms swarms, schools and aggregations as defined by Wittmann (1977) are used in the present paper:

- Swarm: close group showing regularity in spatial arrangement; staying in the same position.
- School: swarms consisting of individuals swimming in the same direction; either staying in the same position or migrating actively.
- Aggregation: no or reduced regularity in spatial arrangement; large groups made up of smaller groups of swarms and/or schools.

Group: swarms, schools and aggregations.

Direct observations of mysid groups were made by skin and/or SCUBA divers at 19 stations in shallow coastal waters of western Japan and southern Korea (Fig. 1, Table 1). All groups were observed during the day. Sampling dates and gregarious species observed are listed in Table 1. A dominant species is defined here as a species comprising >50% of individuals in a group. Before sampling a mysid group, the following biological and physical characters were recorded using an underwater notebook: (1) shape, dimension and movement of the group; (2) behavior and orientation of individuals within the group; (3) body color of individuals: (4) water current and direction; (5) topography and position of the group. In some cases an underwater camera (Nikon, Nikonos V with an 80 mm macro lens and a close-up lens) or an underwater VTR (Victor, BR-S20, UV-B33) was employed to record the movement of the groups. After observation, each group was rapidly swept several times with a hand net (30 cm diameter, 80 cm length, 224 µm mesh size) which was closed with a diver-operated closing system soon after collection. Mysids were preserved with 10% neutralized sucrose-formalin

(Toda & Takahashi 1982). Group dimensions were measured with a plastic scale for small-sized swarms or schools and approximated with divers' body lengths for large groups. If the net swept all individuals in a group, then that group could be regarded as a rectangular prism, sphere or column and density was estimated. A nearest-neighbor distance (NND, distance between 2 nearest neighbors; Partridge 1980) in a swarm was calculated from its numerical density.

In several instances only part of a group was sampled (see Tables 1, 3 & 4); e.g. *Anisomysis aikawai*, a large school ($15 \times 10 \times 200$ cm) at Stn 13, 27 Sep 1988; *A. ijimai*, a small school (15 cm in diameter) at Stn 2, 13 Oct 1987, a large school ($200 \times 50 \times 200$ cm) at Stn 4, 5 Aug 1988, 2 large schools ($30 \times 30 \times 200$ and $40 \times 40 \times 400$ cm) at Stn 7, 7 Jan 1989; *Anisomysis* sp. 1, a large swarm ($30 \times 30 \times 200$ cm) at Stn 16, 22 May 1989; *Paracanthomysis hispida*, a school ($30 \times 20 \times 200$ cm) at Stn 6, 6 May 1989; *Prionomysis aspera*, a swarm ($20 \times 5 \times 5$ cm) at Stn 9, 20 Mar 1989; *Tenagomysis* sp., a swarm ($30 \times 25 \times 10$ cm) at Stn 13, 27 Sep 1988, an aggregation at Stn 13, 15 May 1989 (a huge aggregation along sea bottom at substrate distance of 0 to 50 cm).



Fig. 1 Observation stations off western Japan and Cheju Island, Korea. Sampling dates and topography shown in Table 1

Stn	Locality	Bottom topography (Group formation depth: m)	Date	Dominant species (No. of samples examined)
Seto 1	Inland Sea, Japan Sensui Island	Sandy bottom, brown algae (2–6)	2 Feb 1988 – 14 Jun 1989	Lycomysis bispina (25), Anisomysis ijimai (1)
2 3 4	Hashin Island Shimokamagri Island Kajiko Island	Sandy bottom (4) Sandy bottom, <i>Sargassum</i> spp. beds (4) Sandy bottom (6)	13 Oct 1987 26 Apr 1988 5 Aug 1988	Anisomysis ijimai (1) Lycomysis bispina (3) Anisomysis ijimai (1)
Sea o 5 6	f Japan, Japan Yunotsu Hamada	Sandy bottom (3.5–6.5) Sandy bottom, <i>Sargassum</i> spp. beds (3–4)	14 Aug 1988 6 May 1989, 17 Jun 1989	Nipponomysis sp. 2 (2) Nipponomysis sp. 3 (1), Paracanthomysis hispida (2)
Pacifi 7	ic coast, Japan Shirahama	Sandy bottom (3–4)	21 Nov 1988, 7. 8 Jan 1989	Anisomysis aikawai (1), A. jijmaj (3)
8 9	Kushimotoª Okino Island	Sandy bottom (3–7)	25 Feb 1989 8 Dec 1987, 8 Mar 1988, 20 Mar 1989	Anisomysis mixta (1) Anisomysis ijimai (2), Nipponomysis sp. (1), Prionomysis aspera (1)
10	Kutsu	Sandy bottom, brown algae (1–10)	7 Jun 1988	Anisomysis mixta (3), A pelewensis (1)
11	Suzaki	Sandy bottom, brown algae (3–4)	8 Jun 1988	Anisomysis pelewensis (3)
Kuch 12	inoerabu Island, Japan Nishiura Bay	Sandy and gravelly bottoms (2–6)	22, 29 Sep 1988	Anisomysis mixta (1), A. pelewensis (1), Anisomysis sp. 2 (1)
13	Honmura Bay	Sandy and gravelly bottoms (2–5)	27 Sep 1988, 3 Oct 1988, 14-16 May 1989	Anisomysis aikawai (3), A. mixta (1), Nipponomysis sp. 1 (1), Siriella sp. (1), Tenago- mysis sp. (2), unidentified Leptomysini (1)
14 15	Iye Island Sesoko Island	Sandy bottom, corals (4) Sandy bottom, corals (6)	10, 11 May 1988 12 May 1988	Anisomysis pelewensis (4) Anisomysis aikawai (1)
16 17	Kume Island Kerama Islands	Sandy bottom, corals (1) Sandy bottom (<1)	22 May 1989 21 May 1989	Anisomysis sp. 1 (2) Anisomysis sp. 3 (1)
Cheju 18 19 ª No d	ı İsland, Korea İtokuri Songsan data available	Sargassum spp. beds (4) Sandy bottom, Sargassum spp. beds (2–7)	30 Aug 1989 1 Sep 1989	Paracanthomysis hispida (1) Anisomysis ijimai (1), Paracanthomysis hispida (2)

Table 1 Sampling stations, localities, bottom topographies, dates and dominant species of swarming/schooling mysids

Mysid swarms were classified into 2 types on the basis of their social behavior: stationary and migratory. The stationary type was characterized by maintenance of the whole group at almost the same location, at least throughout the observation time. The migratory type was characterized by active, mainly horizontal, migration in which all individuals were swimming in the same direction. This behavior can be referred to as migratory schooling and differs from the 'escape response' (O'Brien & Ritz 1988).

The body lengths of *Anisomysis ijimai* collected at Stns 7 and 9 were measured from the base of the eyestalk to the terminal end of the sixth abdominal somite (Morioka & Kimoto 1986). Only non-damaged and straight specimens taken from the samples were measured. A swarm of *Anisomysis mixta* at Stn 8 was collected by Mr K. Nomura (Sabiura Marine Park Research Station) and kindly provided to us. *Anisomysis* sp. 1 and *Anisomysis* sp. 3 are undescribed species, and *Anisomysis* sp. 2 is very similar to *A. maris rubri* (M. Murano pers. comm.).

RESULTS

Species composition

During the present investigation, 16 dominant species belonging to the family Mysidae were found to form groups (Table 1). Some groups were made up of a single species, and others were composed of 1 dominant species, which made up more than 50% of a group, and 2 to 5 'guest' (Wittmann 1977) species. Anisomysis aikawai, A. ijimai, A. mixta, A. pelewensis, Paracanthomysis hispida, Lycomysis bispina, Prionomysis aspera, Anisomysis sp. 1 and Anisomysis sp. 2 formed monospecific groups. The first 6 species were often accompanied by guest species. Except for Doxomysis sp. and Parastylomysis secunda, which were not observed forming groups in the present study, almost all the guest species had the capability of becoming the dominant species in a group. The interrelationships between dominant and guest species found in the present investigation are summarized in Fig. 2.

Guest species usually comprised less than one-tenth of the number of individuals within a group (Table 3). In Anisomysis aikawai and Lycomysis bispina, however, guest species comprised approximately half of the constituents. In the case of A. aikaiwai (Stn 15, 12 May 1988), 2 guest species, A. pelewensis and Doxomysis sp., accounted for 36 and 14%, respectively. A swarm of L. bispina collected at Stn 1 on 11 June 1988 contained Nipponomysis fusca guests comprising 48% of the swarm.

Social behavioral types of swarms

Individuals in the groups were either 'polarized' (uniformly oriented) or 'unpolarized' (randomly oriented) (O'Brien 1988b) (Table 2). All swarms with unpolarized constituents and some schools were found stationary at the same locations. Polarization in stationary groups seemed to be caused only by physical factors such as water currents and proximity of substratum: constituents quickly changed their orientation in response to current, and they continued swimming near discontinuities such as rocks and algae. Stationary swarms of *Anisomysis mixta*, *Lycomysis bispina*, *Nipponomysis* sp. 2, *Nipponomysis* sp. 3, *Siriella* sp. and an unidentified leptomysid consisted of polarized constituents. Among them, *A. mixta*, *Nipponomysis* sp. 2 and *Nipponomysis* sp. 3 were observed quickly changing their orientation in response to strong waves.

Categories of social behaviors of the mysids sampled are shown in Table 2. *Lycomysis bispina* formed stationary swarms throughout the year, regardless of developmental stages of individuals; however, constituents were both polarized and unpolarized. *Anisomysis mixta* formed only stationary swarms irrespective of locality and developmental stages, whereas *A. pelewensis* formed only migratory schools. Schools of *Paracanthomysis hispida* actively migrated only around and within *Sargassum* spp. beds and sometimes stopped migrating when they entered the vicinity of algae (see Fig. 5C).

The social behavioral types of mysids were changeable in some species. *Tenagomysis* sp. formed different types of groups in September 1988 and May 1989: in



Ta	bl	е	2.	Soci	al	behavioral	types	of	mysid	swarms	and	schools
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Туре	Species					
Stationary (individuals unpolarized)	Anisomysis aikawai (Stn 13; juveniles dominant), Anisomysis ijimai (Stns 9 and 19; juveniles dominant), Anisomysis sp. 1, Anisomysis sp. 3 (swarms in aggregation), Lycomysis bispina (Stns 1 and 3), Nipponomysis sp. 1, Prionomysis aspera					
Stationary (individuals polarized)	Anisomysis aikawai (Stn 13), A. mixta, Anisomysis sp. 3 (schools in aggregation), Lycomysis bispina (Stn 1), Nippono- mysis sp. 2, Nipponomysis sp. 3, Siriella sp., unidentified Leptomysini					
Stationary (polarization not determined)	Anisomysis aikawai (Stns 7 and 13), Anisomysis ijimai (Stns 2, 7 and 9), Tenagomysis sp. (September)					
Migratory (individuals polarized)	Anisomysis aikawai (Stns 13 and 15; immature/mature inds. dominant), A. ijimai (Stns 1, 4 and 7, immature/mature inds. dominant), A. pelewensis, Anisomysis sp. 2, Paracanthomysis hispida, Tenago- mysis sp. (May, schools in aggregation)					

September a small, carpet-like swarm (ca 10 cm in thickness) was observed over a shallow hollow on the sandy bottom, in May a huge aggregation (ca 50 cm in thickness), which contained a number of small, actively migrating schools, was formed over the sandy bottom. *Anisomysis ijimai* appeared to change behavioral type

with advancing developmental stages: as juveniles they formed stationary swarms, whereas migratory schools were composed more of advanced stages than of juveniles (Fig. 3).

Group shape and size, substrate association, density and NND

A schematic illustration of groups of mysids and their relationships to bottom topography as observed in the present study is depicted in Fig. 4. The shape, size, formation site and numerical density of the entire group are summarized in Table 3.

Shapes of swarms and schools in relation to substrates are classified into 2 major types: (1) a flattened, carpet-shaped type formed exclusively just above sandy bottoms, and (2) an ovoid, spherical or column-shaped type formed at a variety of sites. Swarms of *Nipponomysis* sp. 1, *Nipponomysis* sp. 2, *Pri*-

onomysis aspera, and Tenagomysis sp. (27 September 1988) belonged to the former type (ca 5 to 10 cm thick). These flattened swarms were often found over shallow hollows on the sandy bottom (Nipponomysis sp. 1, Tenagomysis sp.), above the sand channels among rocks (Nipponomysis sp. 2) or near sand-rock boundaries (P. aspera). In Nipponomysis sp. 1, a swarm was formed at a height of up to 5 cm above the bottom. A swarm of Tenagomysis sp. was also observed at the same hollow for 2 d (Stn 13, 27 to 28 Sep 1988). On 15 May 1989 Tenagomysis sp. formed a huge aggregation (about 50 cm thick) just above the bottom instead of a small, flat swarm over the sandy bottom at the same locality. Approximate dimensions of these flat swarms ranged from $20 \times 5 \times 5$ to $30 \times 25 \times 10$ cm. Density of swarms of *Nipponomysis* spp. varied from 16 to 65 ind. 1^{-1} .

All species other than the above 4 formed ovoid, spherical or column-like swarms of various sizes located at a wide variety of sites. In *Anisomysis aikawai*, oval- and ball-shaped swarms were found on the lee side of rocks, corals, and the lower side of the brown alga *Eckloniopsis radicosa* (Fig. 5A). The shapes and sizes of the swarms varied from a small sphere of 10 cm in diameter to a large oval of 200 cm along the long axis. Density of swarms of *A. aikawai* ranged from 17 to 99 ind. l^{-1} .

Ovoid and ball-shaped swarms or schools of *Anisom*ysis ijimai (Fig. 5B) were found over sandy bottoms, with sizes ranging from a ball of 20 cm in diameter to a huge oval of 400 cm along the long axis. Density ranged from 13 to 571 ind. l^{-1} . The maximum densities



Fig. 3. Frequency distribution of body length of Anisomysis ijimai in relation to type of social behavior. (A, B) Stationary type swarms; (C) migratory type school. (□) Juvenile; (■) female and male



Fig. 5. Mysid swarms/schools observed in the field (A) Swarm of Anisomysis aikawai 5 m deep near the lower side of the brown alga Eckloniopsis radicosa (Stn 10); (B) school of Anisomysis jjimai 4 m deep near a large rock (Stn 7); (C) school of Paracanthomysis hispida (indicated by arrow) 3 m deep among Sargassum spp. beds (Stn 6); (D) abrupt bending behavior of Lycomysis bispina when swarm 4 m deep was disturbed by a diver (indicated by arrow) (Stn 1)

Dominant species	Site	Body color	Shape	Approximate volume (l)	Density (ınd. l ⁻¹)	NND (cm)	Guest species (%)	
Anisomysis aikawai	Near discontinuities over sandy bottom	Transparent	Ball, ovoid	0.5 to 30	17 to 99	2.1 to 3.9	0 to 50.0	
A. ijimai	Near isolated rocks over sandy bottom	Transparent	Ball, ovoid	3.0 to 2000	13 to 571	1.2 to 4.3	0 to 21.1	
A. mixta	In open water above discontinuities	Transparent, brown,yellow	Ovoid	0.5 to 2.5	13 to 52	2.7 to 4.3	0 to 2.3	
A. pelewensis	Over sandy bottom	Transparent	Ball, ovoid	0.5 to 18	15 to 69	2.4 to 4.1	0 to 6.2	
Anisomysis sp. 1	ln open water near coral edge	Transparent	Ball, ovoid	14.1, 180	25	3.4	0, 5.4	
Anisomysis sp. 2	Near rocks over gravelly bottom	Transparent, brown, yellow	Ball	1.8	37	3.0	0	
Anisomysis sp. 3	Along seashore	Transparent	Ovoid, aggregation	2.0	25	3.4	10.2	
Lycomysis bispina	Near brown algae and recesses	Transparent, yellowish-brown	Ball, ovoid	0.4 to 7.7	27 to 148	1.3 to 3.3	0 to 48.0	
<i>Nipponomysis</i> sp. 1	Near rocks and above recesses over sand	Brownish	Carpet-like	3.0, 6.0	24, 65	2.5, 3.4	1.5, 4.2	
Nipponomysis sp. 2	Near rocks over sandy bottom	Transparent, white	Carpet-like	1.6, 6.3	16, 37	3.0, 4.0	1.0, 34.2	
Nipponomysis sp. 3	Cave over sandy bottom	Brown, white	Ovoid	3.0	65	2.5	27.4	
Paracanthomysis hispida	Sargassum spp. beds	Yellowish- brown	Ball, ovoid	1.7	13 to 43	2.9 to 4.3	0 to 5.7	
Prionomysis aspera	Over sandy bottom	Brown	Carpet-like	1.5	•	•	0	
<i>Siriella</i> sp.	Near rocks over sandy bottom	Transparent, brown	Column-like	8.8	33	3.1	2.0	
<i>Tenagomysis</i> sp.	Above recesses over sand, over sandy bottom	Brown-striped	Carpet-like, huge aggregation	7.5 ^{•, °}	•		4.7 to 6.7	
Unidentified Leptomysini	Over sandy bottom, along seashore	Yellowish- brown, brown	Ovoid	5.0	48	2.8	2.0	
"Due to the size of the aggregation, this volume should in fact be larger								

Table 3. Mysid swarms/schools observed in the present study. *Swarms/schools partly collected; NND: nearest-neighbor distance

of 2 swarms in which all constituents were juveniles were 571 and 312 ind. l^{-1} , much higher than those containing mixed stages (13 to 49 ind. l^{-1}).

Anisomysis mixta formed relatively small oval swarms ($10 \times 10 \times 5$ to $25 \times 20 \times 5$ cm), with densities ranging from 13 to 52 ind. 1^{-1} , above the upper side of the brown alga *Eckloniopsis radicosa* or large rocks (height above the bottom up to ca 1 m) but not directly over sandy bottoms. *A. pelewensis* formed exclusively oval ($40 \times 30 \times 15$ cm) or ball-shaped (10 cm) active schools over sandy bottoms at densities similar to those of *A. mixta*. The schools moved at distances of 5 to 100 cm above the bottom. The other 3 species of *Anisomysis* formed swarms or schools peculiar to each species. *Anisomysis* sp. 1 was observed forming large oval ($30 \times 30 \times 200$ cm) and small ball-shaped (30 cm) swarms 30 to 40 cm away from the edges of living corals in open water. In *Anisomysis* sp. 2 a spherical school (diam. 15 cm) was found near a rock over gravelly bottom, whereas in *Anisomysis* sp. 3 a loose aggregation containing a lot of oval swarms was formed along the wave zone at a depth of less than 1 m.

Lycomysis bispina, Nipponomysis sp. 3, and Paracanthomysis hispida also formed oval or ball-shaped swarms/schools, but their formation sites and polarization differed. L. bispina (Fig. 5D) formed swarms/ schools near rocks over the sandy bottoms or in the spaces surrounded by the brown algae Undaria pinnatifida, Sargassum spp. and the red alga Grateloupia filicina, with density ranging from 27 to 148 ind. l⁻¹. A swarm of Nipponomysis sp. 3 was found beneath a notch of a large rock over the sandy bottom. Paracanthomysis hispida (Fig. 5C) formed active, highly integrated schools only within Sargassum spp. beds. The body color of *P. hispida* is yellowish brown, which is similar to that of *Sargassum* spp. fronds and bladders and may function as mimicry against fish predation.

Aggregations of *Anisomysis* sp. 3 were distributed along the wave zone, their sizes ranging from a few m to around 10 m in length. The aggregations contained a number of small swarms and schools and constantly changed form in accordance with the subgroups (swarms/schools). In *Tenagomysis* sp., a huge aggregation (about 10 m in length and width) covered the sandy bottom at a depth of 3 m and was formed within a distance of ca 50 cm from the substrate. The aggregation involved small migratory schools. Estimated NNDs ranged from 1.2 to 4.4 cm and were nearly constant irrespective of species.

Stage composition and sex ratio

The developmental stage composition and sex ratios within swarms are shown in Table 4. Almost all swarms were composed of individuals of various developmental stages, juveniles and immature and mature females/males. However, in *Anisomysis aikawai* and *A. ijimai*, swarms were observed in which all the constituents were juveniles. In contrast, actively migrating schools of *A. ijimai*, *A. pelewensis*, *Anisomysis* sp. 2, and *Paracanthomysis hispida* tended to consist mainly of advanced developmental stages, with juveniles occupying less than 36% (Fig. 3). All swarms of *Lycomysis bispina* contained all categories in a wide variety of ratios.

All swarms contained both sexes, with sex ratios (σ'/\circ) ranging from 0.22 to 2.40.

DISCUSSION

Characteristics of groups

Species composition

A number of shallow-water mysids have hitherto been directly observed forming a variety of groups (Table 5). All of those species, except for Anchialina agilis (the subfamily Gastrosaccinae) and Siriella jaltensis (the subfamily Siriellinae), belong to the subfamily Mysinae. Previous reports of gregarious behavior in the Gastrosaccinae and Siriellinae have been few. Wittmann (1977) reported that S. jaltensis, S. armata and A. agilis exhibited only solitary behavior and clung to leaves of Zostera during the day and that S. jaltensis and A. agilis joined swarms only as guest species. Some species of Gastrosaccus (Gastrosaccinae) are known to burrow into sand during the day (Mauchline 1980). In the present study, Siriella sp. was observed forming an almost monospecific stationary school (Table 3). The present and previous studies revealed that the genera Acanthomysis, Anisomysis, Leptomysis, Mysidium, Neomysis, Nipponomysis and Tenagomysis commonly form groups in shallow waters. The genera Prionomysis and Paracanthomysis were first found to form groups in this study.

Although O'Brien (1988b) mentioned that mysid swarms/schools are basically monospecific, the present study revealed that the combination of 1 dominant species with 1 or more guest species in a group commonly occurs in the temperate and subtropical regions of Japan and Korea (Fig. 2). Wittmann (1977) and Morioka & Kimoto (1986) also reported poly-

Table 4. Stage composition and sex ratio of mysid groups observed in the present study. Sex ratio calculated from the numbers of matures and immatures. *Only part of group collected (the number of * represents the number of partially collected groups)

Dominant species	No. of		Sex ratio				
, i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	samples	0	0-25	25-50	50-75	75-100	(đ*/q)
Anisomysis aikawai	6	2	3	0	0	1.	0.32-1.20
A. ijimai	9	2	5 • • • •	1	0	1	0.62 - 2.40
A. mixta	6	0	2	2	2	0	0.33-2.39
A. pelewensis	9	0	1	1	4	3	0.47-2.14
Anisomysis sp. 1	2	0	0	1	1.	0	1.09
Anisomysis sp. 2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0.91
Anisomysis sp. 3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0.26
Lycomysis bispina	28	0	12	10	6	0	0.22-1.31
Nipponomysis sp. 1	2	0	0	2	0	0	0.34-1.02
Nipponomysis sp. 2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0.81-0.94
Nipponomysis sp. 3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0.39
Paracanthomysis hispida	5	0	1	2	1	1 •	0.40-2.14
Prionomysis aspera	1	0	0	0	1 •	0	1.50
Siriella sp.	1	0	0	0	0	1	1.29
Tenagomysis sp.	2	0	0	1 •	0	1 •	0.33-0.61
Unidentified Leptomysini	1	0	1	0	0	0	1.49

Species	Shape, size, site and other characteristics	Source
Acanthomysis sp. A	Huge aggregation of a few to tens of meters across; spherical/flattened; above sandy or rocky bottoms; 3 to 10 m depth; polarized/unpolarized; height above substrate 0 to 30 cm up to 1.5 m	Clutter (1969)
Acanthomysis sp. B	Huge aggregation of a few to tens of meters across; above sandy bottoms; 13 to 21 m depth; unpolarized; height above substrate 70 cm	Clutter (1969)
Acanthomysis sp.	At biogenic structures; unpolarized	Wittmann (1977)
Acanthomysis sp.	In shadowed places along the bank in mangrove swamps; polarized	Omori & Hamner (1982)
Anchialina agilis	Only as guest species	Wittmann (1977)
Anisomysis mixta-australis	Ovoid/variable dependent on substrates; $0.3 \times 0.2 \times 0.2$ to $4 \times 2 \times 0.5$ m; associated with discontinuities usually over sandy bottom; 1 to 210 m doubt, projected or incident above substrate 10 cm to 1.5 m	O'Brien (1988b)
Australerythrops paradicei	Ovoid; $1 \times 1 \times 0.5$ to $4 \times 2 \times 2$ m; caves; 8 to 15 m depth; polarized; height above substrate 30 cm to 2 m	O'Brien (1988b)
<i>Doxomysis</i> sp.	Dictated by substrate relief; $0.2 \times 0.0 \times 0.05$ to $1 \times 1 \times 0.2$ m; associated with depressions/furrows in rocks or gaps between algae; 2 to >30 m depth; polarized by current; beint above substrate 0 to 30 cm	O'Brien (1988b)
Leptomysis apiops	At biogenic structures; 18 to 34 m depth; unpolarized; height above substrate up to 8 cm	Wittmann (1977)
L. lingvura	Spherical; 20 cm in diameter; <i>Anemonia sulcata</i> /rocks/recesses of rocks; 0.5 to 6 m depth; exhibiting homing behavior; height above substrate up to 30 cm	Wittmann (1977)
L. mediterranea	Over sandy bottoms; 1 to 8 m depth; polarized/unpolarized; height above substrate up to 50 cm	Wittmann (1977)
L. sardica	Loose aggregations of 2 to 8 specimens in <i>Zostera</i> beds in summer/swarms or schools over sandy bottoms in February; 1 to 12 m depth; polarized/ unpolarized; height above substrate changing from 3 cm to 50 cm	Wittmann (1977)
<i>Leptomysis</i> sp. A	Anemonia sulcata/rocks/algae; 4 to 12 m depth; unpolarzied; height above substrate up to 30 cm	Wittmann (1977)
<i>Leptomysis</i> sp. B	Rocks/algae; 14 to 30 m depth; unpolarized; height above substrate up to 30 cm	Wittmann (1977)
Lycomysis bispina	Ovoid; 30 to 50 cm in diameter and 1 to 2 m in length; lee side of rocks/ gaps between brown algae and <i>Zostera marina</i> ; 5 m depth; polarized	Morioka & Kimoto (1986)
Metamysidopsis elongata	Above fine sand; 3 to 15 m depth; polarized/unpolarized; height above substrate 5 cm to 1 m	Clutter (1969)
Mysidium columbiae	In shoals close to mangroves/inside caves/along coral faces; <1 to 30 m depth/a few cms below the sea surface	Steven (1961), Emery (1968)
M. gracile	Inside caves/along coral faces; associated with nest of pomacentrid fish or sea urchin <i>Diadema antillarum</i> ; less than 1 to 4 m depth	Randall et al. (1964), Emery (1968)
M. integrum	Inside caves/along coral faces; less than 1 to 30 m depth	Emery (1968)
Mesopodopsis slabberi	No visible substrate preferences; schools sometimes migrating with stonping at discontinuities: polarized beight above substrate up to 50 cm.	Wittmann (1977)
Neomysis integer N. japonica	Swarms/aggregations; at the mouth of rivers or streams; 1 to 5 m depth Some tens of meters; near bottom in the lagoon along the waterway; polarized	Mauchline (1971) Omori & Hamner (1982)
N. mirabilis	Ribbon-shaped/spherical/spindle-shaped; 2 to 3 m long; <i>Zostera</i> beds/water edge; 0.5 to 3 m depth; some dozens to several thousands in a swarm, sometimes notarized	Zelickman (1974)
Neomysis sp.	At biogenic structures: unpolarized, height above substrate up to 8 cm	Wittmann (1977)
Nipponomysis fusca	Spherical; ca 30 cm in diameter; lee side of artificial fish reefs/cave, 28 to 36 m depth	Kakimoto et al. (1983)
Paramesopodopsis rufa	Cigar-shaped/discoid/ovoid; 100 cm ³ to 3 × 3 × 1 m; prefers algal- covered rock outcrops; 1 to >20 m depth; unpolarized; height above substrate 10 cm to 2 m	O'Brien (1988b)
Praunus flexuosus	Aggregations; over sand; 1 to 5 m depth	Mauchline (1971)
P. inermis	Aggregations; over sand; 1 to 5 m depth	Mauchline (1971)
P. neglectus	Aggregations; among weeds/sandy areas of a few meters width surrounded by seaweeds; 1 to 5 m depth	Mauchline (1971)
Schistomysis kervillei S. spiritus	Swarm/aggregation in sandy bays; 1 to 5 m depth Swarm/aggregation in sandy bays sheltered from strong waves; 1 to 5 m depth	Mauchline (1971) Mauchline (1971)
Siriella jaltensis	Only as guest species	Wittmann (1977)
Tasmanomysis oculata	Discoid with flat vertical axes; $1 \times 1 \times 0.25$ to $4 \times 4 \times 0.25$ m; near discontinuities/in surf zone; 0.5 to 3 m depth; polarized; height	O'Brien (1988b)
Tenagomysis sp.	above substrate 30 cm to 1 m Compressed along vertical axes; $0.5 \times 0.5 \times 0.05$ to $30 \times 2 \times 0.2$ m; associated with sand; 1 to 15 m depth; polarized; height above substrate 0 to 50 cm	O'Brien (1988b)

Table 5. Mysid swarms/schools/aggregations examined in previous direct field observations

specific groups in the Adriatic Sea and western Japan, respectively. In the present study, congeners with similarities in size, body color or social behavior tend to group together preferentially. For example, migratory schools of Anisomysis pelewensis often contained congeneric guest species, A. aikawai and A. mixta, whose swarms were normally stationary (Table 2). Wittman (1977) suggested that polyspecific swarms are caused by 2 factors, preference for the same habitat and nonspecific gregariousness. The stationary groups of A. aikawai and Lycomysis bispina which were found containing many quest species in the present study may have been a result of the former preference. The A. pelewensis-A. aikawai and A. pelewensis-A. mixta associations probably correspond to the latter preference. In A. aikawai and L. bispina, 2 or more swarms/schools might have been mixed together because of their preference for the same habitat.

Substrate preference

Wittmann (1977) clearly demonstrated that there is a broad spectrum of mysid behavior, ranging from 'substrate-specialists' to 'swarm-specialists', which shows additional differences in body color and antipredatory behavior. Although the present study dealt only with swarm-specialists, body color, activity, substratepreference and height above substrate varied greatly for the species observed. Nipponomysis sp. 1, Prionomysis aspera and Tenagomysis sp., which all formed flat swarms just above sandy bottoms, were entirely or partly brownish in body color, suggesting these species adopt both camouflage and swarming strategies (see Wittmann 1977) for antipredation. In the elliptical and ball-shaped swarms/schools of Anisomysis spp., Lycomysis bispina and Paracanthomysis hispida the integrity between constituents seemed to be more intensified and independent of substrate than that in the flat swarms in that they formed 3dimensional groups and, in some cases, highly integrated migratory ones.

Groups of mysids are commmonly found over a wide variety of substrates: over sandy, gravelly and rocky bottoms, among seaweeds, in caves, in recesses and discontinuities, near corals, and with other benthic invertebrates or demersal fishes (Table 5). Each species has its own preferred substrate type, even the migratory types of mysids. In shallow waters various species are segregated by bathymetric zones and substrates (Clutter 1967, Wittmann 1977, O'Brien 1988b).

The closest relationship between grouping behavior and substrate preference is found in species commensal with other invertebrates (Table XXXI in Mauchline 1980). Such relationships were never found in the present study. On the other hand, the relationships we found are not necessarily consistent for some species. In *Tenagomysis* sp., the type and site of grouping changed seasonally. In *Anisomysis ijimai* the mobility of the swarms converted from stationary type to migratory type with maturity. Wittmann (1977) also reported seasonal change in social behavior of *Leptomysis sardica* from loose aggregations in *Zostera* beds in summer to stationary schools over the sandy bottom in February.

Polarization

Polarization of individuals can change with space and time in some species. For *Lycomysis bispina*, we found both unpolarized swarms and stationary schools at depths of 4 to 6 m in the Seto Inland Sea throughout the year, but Morioka & Kimoto (1986) observed a school migrating slowly among seaweeds and rocks at a depth of 5 m in the western Kyushu in August. Other species also form both unpolarized swarms and polarized schools (Table 5). In *Anisomysis mixta-australis*, swarming was observed only in stagnant waters in the laboratory, whereas polarized schooling was exclusively found in the field (O'Brien 1988b). This suggests that current is an important factor causing polarization in this species.

Density

Numerical density in the mysid swarms/schools in the present study ranged from 13 to 571 ind. l⁻¹. Densities in schools were up to 2.5 ind. l^{-1} in Neomysis japonica (Omori & Hamner 1982), 14 in Lycomysis bispina (Morioka & Kimoto 1986), and 50 to 700 in Acanthomysis sp. A (Clutter 1969). The maximum density recorded in the present study was in a swarm of Anisomysis ijimai composed only of juveniles. In A. aikawai and A. ijimai swarms of a higher density were dominated by juveniles. Instead of density, NNDs have been used to express degree of aggregation in many mysids, probably partly because of relatively irregular shapes of mysid swarms and partly because their high net avoidance ability (>20 cm s⁻¹ escape speed; O'Brien & Ritz 1988) makes exact quantitative sampling difficult. Although the estimated NNDs in the present study were calculated from densities found, the values are very similar to those found in other studies for other group-forming mysids (1 to 4 cm or 0.7 to 6.5 body lengths; see Table IX in O'Brien 1989).

Stage composition

The stage composition in mysid groups was temporally and spatially variable in the present and previous studies. For example, although all swarms/schools of Lycomysis bispina consisted of juveniles and immature and mature females and males throughout the year, stage composition fluctuated seasonally, with juveniles comprising 2 to 73 % and mature adults 3 to 60 % of the total number (Inagaki 1990). Swarms of Anisomysis aikawai and A. ijimai also contained a variety of developmental stages, although some swarms were made up exclusively of juveniles. A. mixta-australis and Metamysidopsis elongata also formed groups composed only of juveniles (Clutter 1969, O'Brien 1988b). The facts suggest that these mysids have no solitary phase in their life history. No observations have ever been made on mysid groups containing only a single sex. Clutter (1969) and O'Brien (1988b) mentioned that all swarms of A. mixta-australis, Australerythrops paradicei, M. elongata, Paramesopodopsis rufa, Tasmanomysis oculata, and Tenagomysis sp. were generally composed of individuals at similar stages of maturity. Similar tendencies were found in A. mixta, A. pelewensis and P. hispida (Fig. 3, Table 4).

Sex ratio

Sex ratio in mysid populations is known to vary among samples and among seasons, usually in favor of females (Mauchline 1980). This is also true in the present study. For example the sex ratio of *Lycomysis bispina* in 28 swarms ranged from 0.2 to 1.3 (0.89 on average), which falls within those of the previous reports in other species (0.2 to 0.9; Mauchline 1980). No extreme imbalance (up to 1:19 or 1:59) in the ratio (Mauchline 1980) has been observed.

Possible adaptive values of mysid grouping behavior

Present and previous studies on mysid swarms suggest that antipredation and position maintenance are the most important adaptive advantages for gregariousness. For example, groups of *Idiomysis* spp. associated with sea anemones and medusae (Bacescu 1973), swarms/schools of *Mysidium gracile* associated with the sea urchin *Diadema antillarum* (Randall et al. 1964, Emery 1968, Hahn & Itzkowitz 1986), nesting pomacentrid fishes (Emery 1968) and damselfish territories (Hahn & Itzkowitz 1986) are also thought to be highly adapted to antipredation. Actively migrating schools of brown-colored *Paracanthomysis hispida* associated with *Sargassum* spp. beds can fade into the background to escape from visual predators. Swarms of *Anisomysis aikawai*, *A. ijimai* (present study) and *A. mixta-australis* (O'Brien 1988b) which consisted exclusively of juveniles seemed to have no connection with reproductive behavior and most likely occurred for antipredation. Although some swarms/schools of mysids were observed to be broken up and fed upon by fishes (Emery 1968, for *Mysidium columbiae*; Hahn & Itzkowitz 1986, for *M. integrum*; present study, for *A. ijimai*), mysids' overall gregarious behaviors apparently favor antipredation.

Some mysids also aggregate for feeding (cf. Omori & Hamner 1982). In surf zones of sandy beaches, where accumulation of some zoo- and phytoplankters trapped by wind or tidal action may occur, some mysids were observed feeding voraciously on a pelagic harpacticoid copepod, *Microsetella norvegica* (Ito 1985), and *Gastrosaccus psammodytes* was associated with diatom accumulations (Wooldridge 1989). Swarms of *Anisomysis* sp. 3 (present study) and *Tenagomysis* sp. (O'Brien 1988b) (Table 3) found aggregating along such zones are also considered as those for feeding.

Mauchline (1971) and O'Brien (1988b) reported that some mysid species make swarms for reproduction because they found swarms consisting predominantly of mature adult individuals. However, shallow-water mysids generally copulate at night when they disperse throughout the water column or morphologies of groups greatly change (Murano 1964, Clutter 1969, Mauchline 1980, Wittmann 1981, Inagaki 1990).

The present study evidently revealed that mysids form polyspecific groups almost consistently composed of a dominant species in association with 1 or more guest species on Japanese and Korean coasts. The formation of polyspecific groups in the family Mysidae has been hitherto recorded in other regions (Wittman 1977, O'Brien 1988b). Polyspecific gregariousness is probably common in group-forming species of the family. Group cohesion appears to be more important in the mysid community than was surmised in previous studies and the following 2 adaptive advantages are assumed: (1) stray mysids temporarily join groups of dominant species as guests for antipredation and (2) connection of some small subgroups into 1 large group is more effective for antipredation and position maintenance.

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