

## Taxonomy Diversity and Abundance of Seaweeds in the Northern Atlantic Coast of Senegal (West Africa)

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DOI: [10.36347/sajb.2020.v08i11.004](https://doi.org/10.36347/sajb.2020.v08i11.004)

| Received: 02.11.2020 | Accepted: 12.11.2020 | Published: 19.11.2020

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### Abstract

### Original Research Article

Characterization and knowledge of the quantity of wild macroalgae stock available per season is necessary to allow the carrying out of a seaweed and exploitation project. The measurement of the quantity of seaweeds on the North coast was undertaken by the method of transects and quadrats. The inventory was carried out between 2017 and 2019 at 5 sites located on the said coast. In each site we have used Google Earth and the Arc Gis software predetermined 3 transects of 500 m each distant from 500 m to each other, arranged perpendicular to the coast. On each transect, sampling points spaced 50 m from each other with their coordinates have been pre-established. At each sampling point, 3 quadrats were fixed and the algae are harvested and identified. In this area, *Ceramium rubrum var. pacificum* is the most frequent species (5.8% of the quadrats) and the most abundant but the *Meristotheca senegalensis* has the most important biomass with 1682 grams in 2017 and 1170 grams in 2018 harvested for each season in an area of 49,5 m<sup>2</sup>.

**Keywords:** Seaweeds, Senegal, Seasons, Frequency, Biomass, Abundance, Density.

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## INTRODUCTION

Macroalgae is a macroscopic algae living in the aquatic areas. They play an important role as primary producers and sources of food for marine organisms [30, 29, 24]. Economically, macroalgae are subject of several applications as an industrial raw material carrageenan, agar-agar, cosmetic, pharmaceutical, food sources, organic fertilizers, and others [6, 9, 30, 4, 10]. As part for over 80% of human food, macroalgae are used in the extraction of colloids (alginates, carrageenans and agars) [6]. According to [28], colloids production and human food represented respectively 43 and 47% of the tonnages of marine plants which is estimated of 7.6 million tons in 1994 and 90 among them is provided by cultivation. South-East Asia produces nearly 90 % of the world's seaweed supplies for the manufacture of phyco-colloids [6]. Macroalgae represent a key functional group among the marine's ecosystems and perform vital ecological functions like reef structure stabilisation, nutrient retention and recycling, primary production in mangrove ecosystem, trophic support, shelter etc. [26, 12]. In Senegal, seaweed production along the Dakar coast is estimated from 08 to 10 tons of dry matter per year mainly intended for export to Japan [27].

Various studies of macroalgae have been carried out in some parts of Senegalese coast mainly in the Small Coast and Dakar Coast [8, 2, 23, 3, 19, 27, 22]. This research has predominantly focused on providing species "check lists". However, after the floristic composition, knowing the species dynamics, the abundance and the available stock of seaweed remain necessary before elaboration of any plan for a sustainable production. Furthermore, few studies on macroalgae have been conducted in the northern coast of Senegal known as the great coast despite their importance in Senegalese seaweed production.

The great Coast of Senegal is well documented in term of eco-biology, geomorphology and sedimentology due to the constant struggle against coastal erosion noted in this part of the Atlantic Ocean. Our research aims to study the distribution and abundance of macroalgae in northern coastal zone of Senegal and their dynamics and stock through the year.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Presentation of the study area

Located at the western edge of West Africa, Senegal has a coastline length of 700 km with diverse

coastal habitats which support rich seaweed biodiversity [17].

The great coast shares 250 km of the Senegal coastline from Dakar to Saint Louis and represents the northern part of the Atlantic Ocean [32]. It is known to harbour a rich diversity of seaweeds as its rocky segments provide suitable environment for macroalgal settlement and growth. It also shelters a great number of

maritime fishing centers such as Saint-Louis, Loumpoul, Fass-Boye, Mboro, Kayar and Yoff [32].

The geomorphology of the north coast is sandy-muddy with alternations of rock bank from Yoff to Kayar. From Kayar to Saint Louis There is disappearing of the rock banks giving way to sand [16, 25].

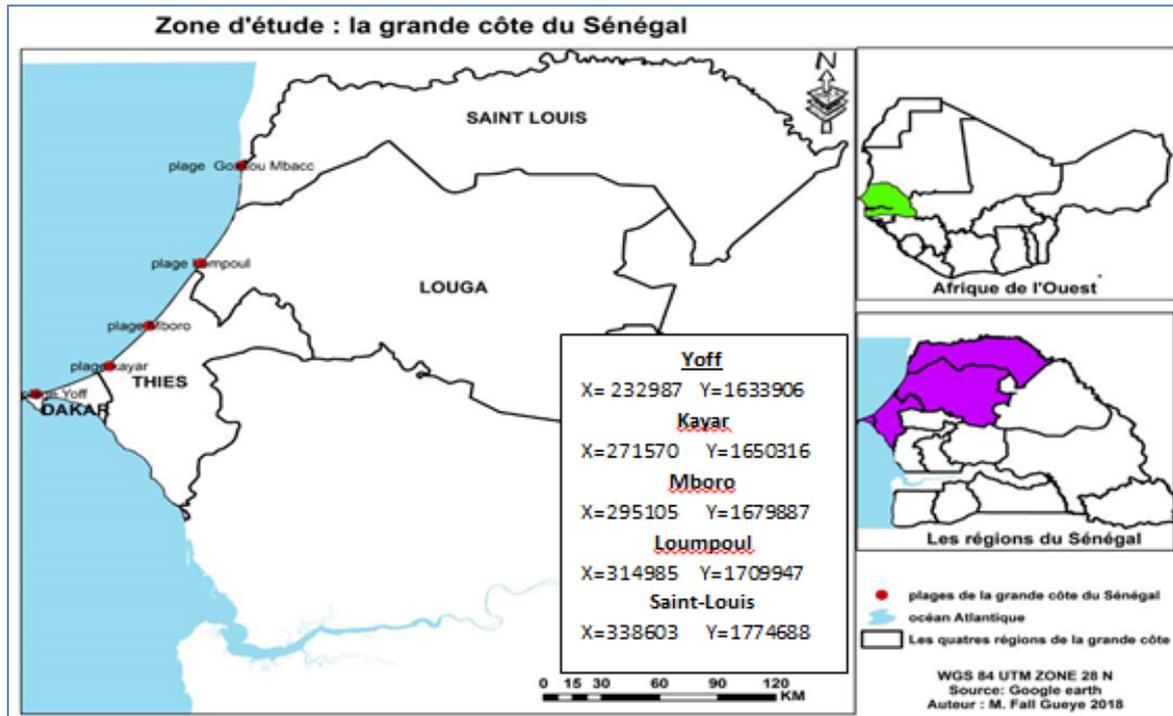


Fig-1: The great coast of Senegal or the North coast of Senegal (Yoff, Kayar, Mboro, Loumpoul and Saint-Louis)

### Experimental sites

The study was carried out on the coast of Senegal because no study has existed so far on macroalgae. The survey areas were chosen according to the cantonment of the fishing docks in order to gain easy access to the canoes.

### Sampling

The objective of the sampling was to characterize the flora of the area, study the dynamics of macroalgae and determine the available macroalgae stock.

## FIELD DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

### Field sampling of seaweeds/macroalgae

The study was conducted during two years from cold-season 2017 to warm-season 2019 in 5 stations

along Senegalese northern coast. For quantitative assessment of the seaweeds in each site, the GPS-tagged, line intercept transects (LITs) were laid perpendicular to the coast in a seaward direction with the help of a 500m-long rope. 3 transects of 500m each and 500m apart were flagged and labelled using Google earth, GPS and ArcGIS software.

On each transect, 11 points spaced 50 m from one another with their coordinates have been established and in each of them, 3 tagged quadrats of 0.1 m<sup>2</sup> (0.33m x 0.33m) were fixed along the transects, i.e. 33 tagged quadrats (fig- 2 and 3 ). Therefore 99 quadrats and 9.9 m<sup>2</sup> were explored for each campaign. A total of 495 quadrats were sampled for the seaweeds over a total of 15 transects on the Senegalese northern coast.

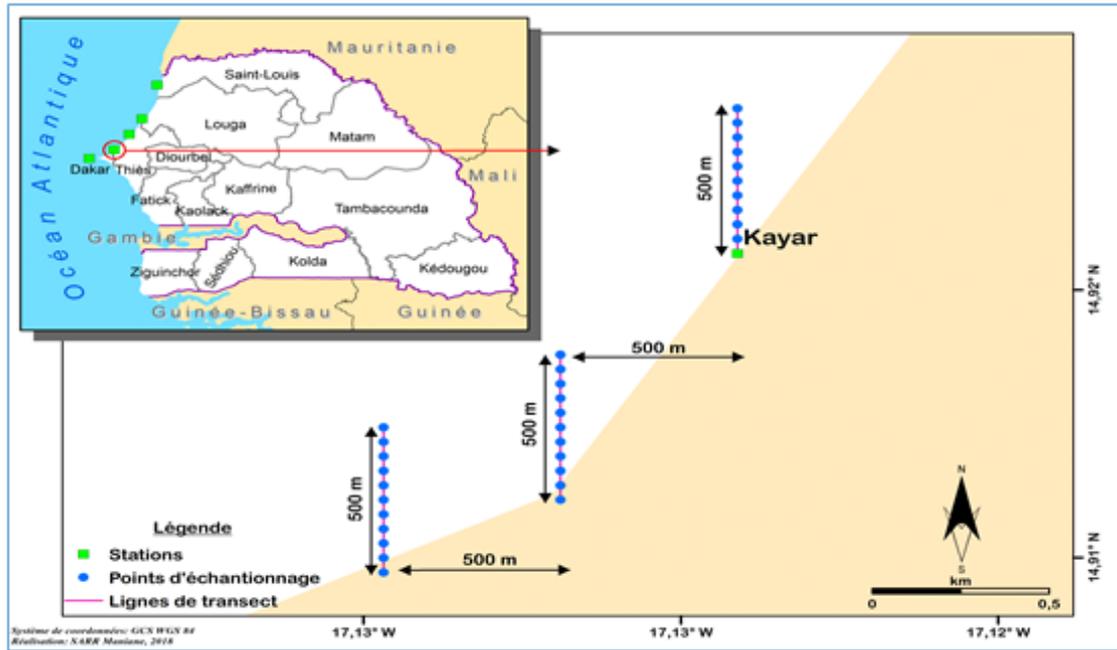


Fig-2: The sampling map along the northern coast of Senegal



Fig-3: Illustration of the sampling device for a given site (in red: transects, 500 m apart from each other; in white: sampling points, 50 m apart along the same transect)

**Field data analysis**

Macroalgae samples collected from the quadrats were taken to laboratory for herbarium preparation, sample identification and quantitative assessment. Morphological criteria and reproductive structures of the algae specimens were analyzed for taxa identification.

**Sampling frequency**

Field survey was performed during two warm-seasons and two cold-seasons, ie 4 survey per site and 20 field survey during two years (Table-1). During each field survey, the floristic list of macroalgae, the number of individuals per species and the dry matter of seaweed were recorded.

**Table-1: Sampling schedule for 5 sites in the North Coast**

Sites	2017		2018		2019	
	CS	WS	CS	WS	CS	WS
<b>Yoff</b>	-	July 07 <sup>th</sup>	01 January	14 August	02 April	-
<b>Kayar</b>	-	August 01 <sup>st</sup>	03 January	10 August	06 April	-
<b>Mboro</b>	-	September 05 <sup>th</sup>	03 January	15 August	12 April	-
<b>Loumpoul</b>	-	September 05 <sup>th</sup>	30 March	16 August	13 April	-
<b>Saint-Louis</b>	-	September 12 <sup>th</sup>	29 March	16 August	14 April	-

CS (Cold Season), WS (Warm-Season)

**Sampling, measurements and methods**

On each sampling point, a square quadrat (0.33 × 0.33 m) was randomly placed three times in each plot and seaweed in the square quadrat was collected. The remaining material was placed in a bag with holes and labels about ecology and biology characteristics of the quadrat (date and time of collection, general description of the habitat, the waypoint, the level of fixation on the rock, associated plants and animals...). In the laboratory, the samples are sorted, rinsed, wrung out and drained, and then the biomass was measured using an electronic balance. The number of individuals for each species except for crawling or grassy species is counted.

**Frequency of occurrence**

The frequency of occurrence of a species is the ratio of the number of the quadrat where the species is recorded out of the total number of square quadrats [7].  
 $F = (Pa / P) \times 100$

F = Frequency of occurrence of the species. Pa = total number of quadrats containing the species considered. P is the total number of quadrats. According to [7], the frequency of occurrence allows to distinct three types of species: constant species ( $F \geq 50\%$ ), accessory species ( $25\% < F < 50\%$ ), accidental species ( $F \leq 25\%$ ).

**Relative abundance**

The relative abundance expressed a total number of individuals per species out of a total number of individuals of all species:

$$A = (Na / Na + Nb + Nc + N...) \times 100$$

A = relative abundance of the species considered. Na, Nb, Nc, = numbers of individuals of species a, b, c.

The relative abundance provides information on the importance of each species compared to others.

The relative abundances by species were determined according to the grouping of algae into strata, or size categories, in order to draw up a precise picture of the vertical stratification of the populations.

The criteria used to determine the different vegetation strata are inspired by work in terrestrial phytosociology (see above), previously published work on macroalgae [33].

The representative size of a species at a given season, in a given site, corresponds to the average size observable in the most developed thalli. Each species, therefore, belongs to a single stratum for a given site. The algal strata taken into consideration are as follows:

- Stratum I (*Caulacanthus*, *Caulerpa racemosa*): encrusting individual or smaller than 0.5 cm in size and impossible to be counted.
- Stratum II (small Fucales, most green and red algae) individuals between 0.5 and 30 cm high:
- Stratum III (medium-sized fucales): individuals between 30 and 100 cm high
- Stratum IV (large Fucals, Laminariales): individuals over 100 cm high

In this part we have studied the abundance of stratum II because all the species encountered during this study except *Caulacanthus ustulatus* and *Caulerpa racemosa* var. *peltata* have heights between 0.5 and 30 cm and could be counted.

**Density**

The density of a stand is the number of living individuals of all species per unit area:

$$D = N / S$$

D = Density of the species.

N = Total number of individuals of a harvested species << a >> in the stand considered.

S = Total area of quadrats sampled (49.5 m<sup>2</sup> along the coast and 9.9 m<sup>2</sup> each site).

Correlation coefficient between seaweed biomass and frequency was also estimated according to the linear equation. All statistical analyses were conducted using the R 3.5.0 software from R Development Core Team (2018) (Library Ade4, Agricolae and Vegan).

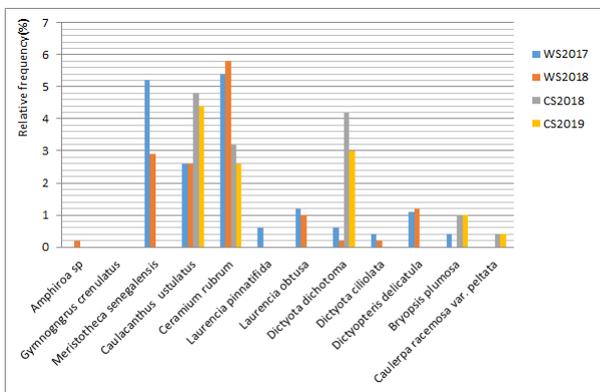
**Biomass**

For the biomass assessment, the macroalgae samples taken from the sachets are once sorted in the laboratory, rinsed in fresh water, wrung out and drained and then weighed using a balance.

**RESULTS**

**Frequency of occurrence of macroalgae**

The frequency of occurrence of macroalgae on the northern coast of Senegal by season are shown in fig-4. Among the 12 recorded species, *Meristotheca senegalensis*, *Ceramium rubrum* var. *pacificum*, *Caulacanthus ustulatus* and *Dictyota dichotoma* are the most common species. The results showed that *Meristotheca senegalensis* was recorded in 5.2 and 2.9% of the square quadrats, respectively during 2017 and 2018 warm-season while the presence of *Ceramium rubrum* var. *pacificum* is noticed in 5.4% and 5.8% of quadrats at the same time. *Caulacanthus ustulatus* remains among the most frequent species and was recorded in 4.8% and 4.4% of quadrats respectively in cold-season 2018 and 2019 and 2.6% of the square quadrats during 2017 and 2018 warm-season. The species *Dictyota dichotoma* was one of the most frequent species during the warm season 2018 with 4.2% compared to 2019 warm-season where it appeared in 3% of square quadrats. The presence of *Amphiroa* sp, *Gymnogongrus* sp, *Laurencia pinnatifida* and *L. obtusa* was noticed under 1.2% of the quadrats which remained the lowest.



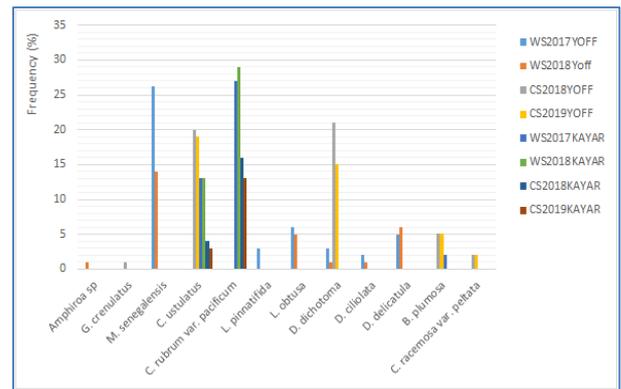
**Fig- 4: Frequency of occurrence of macroalgae on the northern coast of Senegal by season**

**Frequency of occurrence by site and by season**

The frequency of occurrence of macroalgae on the northern coast of Senegal by season and by site are shown in figure 5.

The results showed that the frequency of occurrence of each species was under 30% regardless of the collection site and the season. However, *Meristotheca senegalensis*, *Caulacanthus ustulatus*, *Ceramium rubrum* var. *pacificum*, *Dictyota dichotoma* were the most common species in square quadrats with frequencies between 10 and 29%.

According to the locality, *Ceramium rubrum* var. *pacificum* was the most encountered species in Kayar with 29 and 27% of the quadrats respectively during the warm-seasons 2018 and 2017. At Yoff, *Meristotheca senegalensis* was the most common species and their presence was noticed in 26.2% and 14% of square respectively in warm-seasons 2017 and 2018. The presence of *Dictyota dichotoma* was exclusively registered at Yoff and it was more common during cold-season where it appeared in 21 and 15 of square quadrats respectively in 2018 and 2019. *Caulacanthus ustulatus* is a common species in Yoff as well as in Kayar. It was recorded in 20 and 19% of square quadrats respectively during cold season 2018 and 2019 and in 13% of square quadrats respectively in 2017 and 2018 warm-season. The following species: *Amphiroa* sp, *Gymnogongrus* sp, *Laurencia pinnatifida*, *L. obtusa*, *Dictyota ciliolata*, *Dictyopteris delicatula*, *Bryopsis plumose* and *Caulerpa racemosa* var. *peltata*) were found at Yoff coast but with a low proportion under 6% of square quadrats. This study also revealed that any species was registered in three locations (Mboro, Loumpoul and Saint-Louis).



**Fig- 5: Frequency of occurrence of macroalgae by site and by season**

**Abundance and density of species on the North Coast**  
**Relative abundance of North Coast macroalgae by season**

The abundance of species varies with the seasons. The field survey showed that *Ceramium rubrum* var. *pacificum* and *Dictyota dichotoma* were the most abundant species through the years. *Ceramium rubrum* var. *pacificum* represented 53%, 62%, 34 and 43% of total emerged species respectively in warm-season 2017 and 2018 and in cold-season 2018 and 2019. *Dictyota dichotoma* was also dominant in 2018 and 2019 cold-season with 56 and 49% of harvested individuals while it appeared under one percent of species recorded in square quadrats during the warm-seasons. Except for *Dictyopteris delicatula* which constituted 18% of individuals recorded in the warm-season 2018, the presence of others species remained low under 10% of total individuals (table- 2).

**Table- 2: Relative abundance (%) of macroalgae from the North Coast by season**

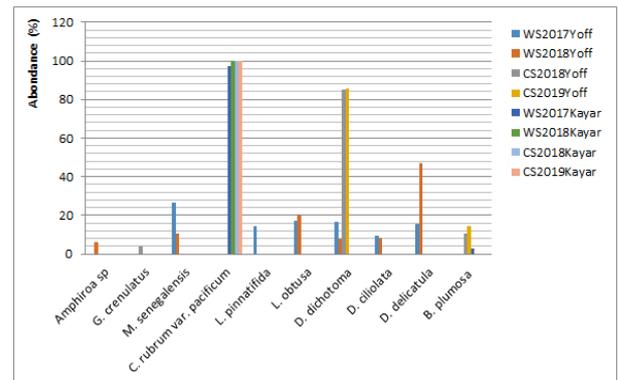
Specie	Ar WS2017 (%)	Ar WS2018 (%)	Ar CS2018 (%)	Ar CS2019 (%)
Amphiroa sp	0	2,4	0	0
Gymnogongrus crenulatus	0	0	2,6	0
Meristotheca senegalensis	12	4	0	0
Ceramium rubrum var. pacificum	52,6	61,7	33,8	43,1
Laurencia pinnatifida	6,5	0	0	0
Laurencia obtusa	7,9	7,5	0	0
Dictyota dichotoma	7,6	3	56,3	48,8
Dictyota ciliolata	4,2	3,2	0	0
Dictyopteris delicatula	7	18	0	0
Bryopsis plumosa	1,5	0	7	8
<b>Abondance absolue cumulées</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>473</b>

Ar WC = Relative abundance in Warm-Season. Ar CS = Relative abundance Cold Season

**Relative abundance of stratum II macroalgae by site and by season**

**Relative abundance of macroalgae in Yoff**

Fig- 6 shows the relative abundance of macroalgae depending on sites and seasons. During the filed survey at Yoff a total of 384, 269, 420 and 269 individuals were recorded respectively during warm-seasons 2017 and 2018 and cold-seasons 2018 and 2019. In the warm season 2017, Meristotheca senegalensis and Laurencia obtusa were the most abundant species with respectively 26.5% and 17.4% of the 384 individuals recorded. In 2018 warm season, Dictyopteris delicatula were the dominant species with 47.21% of individuals.



**Fig-6: Relative abundance of macroalgae from stratum II by site and by season**

Dictyota dichotoma was the most abundant species during the cold seasons 2018 and 2019 with respectively 85 and 86% of individuals recorded. The presence of the other species were low regardless of period or location.

**Relative abundance of macroalgae in Kayar**

During the filed survey at Kayar a total of 454, 435, 215 and 204 individuals were collected respectively during warm-seasons 2017 and 2018 and cold-seasons 2018 and 2019. In the warm-season 2017.

The fig-6 showed that Ceramium rubrum var. pacificum was the only species recorded during the cold seasons and the warm season 2017 while it constituted 97% of individuals encountered in 2017 warm season.

**Density of macroalgae in stratum II by season**

The density of macroalgae in stratum II of the Northern Coast of Senegal per season was presented in table-3. The study showed that Ceramium rubrum var. pacificum had a highest density in 2017 and 2018 with respectively 9.0 and 8.7 individuals per m<sup>2</sup> during warm-seasons. It was followed by Dictyopteris delicatula with 2.5 ind.m<sup>2</sup> in 2018 and Meristotheca senegalensis with 2.5 ind.m<sup>2</sup> in 2017. In 2018 and 2019 cold-seasons Dictyota dichotoma had the highest density with respectively 7.23 and 4.6 individuals per m<sup>2</sup>. It was followed by Ceramium rubrum var. pacificum with individuals per m<sup>2</sup> in 2018 and 4.1 individuals per m<sup>2</sup> in 2019.

**Table- 3: The density of macroalgae taxa from the North Coast by season**

	WS2017 D (ind/m <sup>2</sup> )	WS2018 D (ind/m <sup>2</sup> )	CS2018 D (ind/m <sup>2</sup> )	CS2019 D (ind/m <sup>2</sup> )
Amphiroa sp	0	0,3	0	0
Gymnogongrus crenulatus	0	0	0,3	0
Meristotheca senegalensis	2	0,5	0	0
Ceramium rubrum var. pacificum	9	8,7	4,3	4,1
Laurencia pinnatifida	1	0	0	0
Laurencia obtusa	1,3	1	0	0
Dictyota dichotoma	1,2	0,4	7,23	4,6
Dictyota ciliolata	0,7	0,4	0	0
Dictyopteris delicatula	1,2	2,5	0	0
Bryopsis plumosa	0,2	0	0,9	0,76

**Density of macroalgae in stratum II by site and by season**

The fig- 7 showed the density of macroalgae in number of individuals per square meter per season.

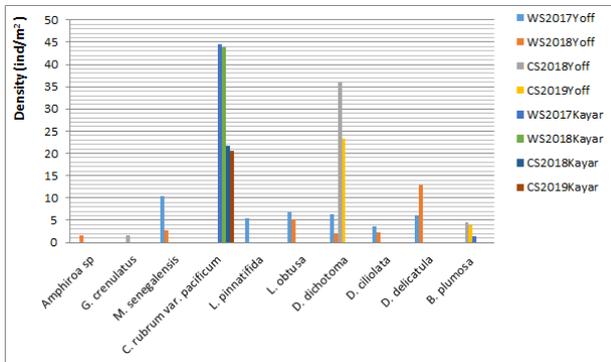
**Density of macroalgae in Yoff**

During the warm season 2017, *Meristotheca senegalensis* had the highest density with 10.3 ind.m<sup>2</sup> followed by *Laurencia obtusa* (6.7 ind.m<sup>2</sup>), *Dictyota dichotoma* (6.4 ind.m<sup>2</sup>), *Dictyopteris delicatula* (6 ind.m<sup>2</sup>), *Laurencia pinnatifida* (5 ind.m<sup>2</sup>) and *Dictyota ciliolata* (3.6 ind.m<sup>2</sup>). In 2018 warm season, the flora was dominated by *Dictyopteris delicatula* (12.8 ind.m<sup>2</sup>) followed by *Laurencia obtusa* (5.3 ind.m<sup>2</sup>), *Meristotheca senegalensis* (2.8 ind.m<sup>2</sup>), *Dictyota ciliolata* (2.3 ind.m<sup>2</sup>), *Dictyota dichotoma* (2.1 ind.m<sup>2</sup>) and *Amphiroa sp* (1.7 ind.m<sup>2</sup>).

During 2018 and 2019 cold seasons, *Dictyota dichotoma* had the highest density with respectively 36 and 23 ind.m<sup>2</sup>.

**Density of macroalgae in Kayar**

Except for *Bryopsis plumose* (1.3 ind.m<sup>2</sup>) recorded during the warm-season 2017, the flora was exclusively represented by *Ceramium rubrum var. pacificum* with 44.5 ind / m<sup>2</sup> in the warm-season 2017, 43.9 ind.m<sup>2</sup> in warm season 2018, 21.7 ind.m<sup>2</sup> in the cold season 2018 and 20.6 ind.m<sup>2</sup> in the cold-season 2019 (fig- 7).



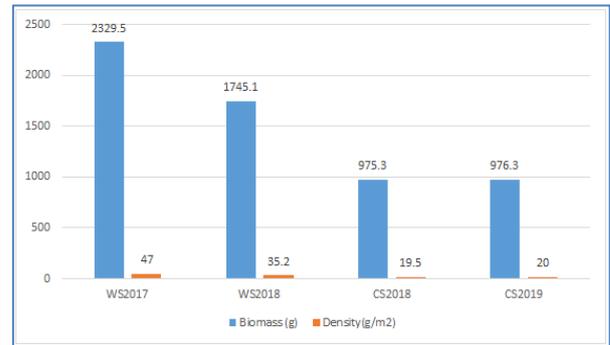
**Fig-7: Density of macroalgae in stratum II by site and by season**

**The biomass and density of macroalgae from the northern coast of Senegal**

Biomass and total density of macroalgae from the North coast by season. Seaweed biomass and density from the northern coast of Senegal are shown in figure 8.

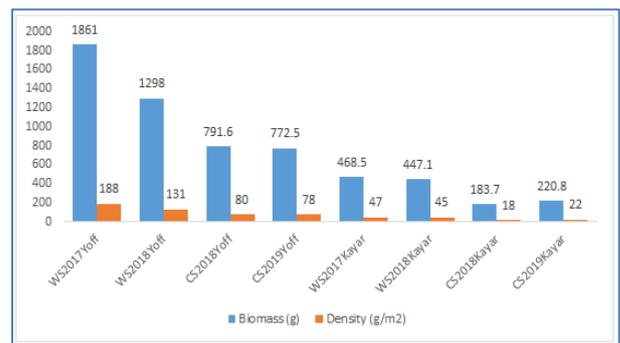
The highest macroalgae biomass was obtained during the warm season 2017 with 2329.5 g and a

density of 47 ind.m<sup>2</sup>. In 2018 warm season a quantity of 1745.1 g with a density of 35.2 ind.m<sup>2</sup> was collected. A quantity of 975.3 and 976.3 g of seaweed were harvested respectively during 2018 and 2019 warm season.



**Fig-7: Biomass and total density of macroalgae on the North Coast by season and by site**

The results of the study showed that the macroalgae were affected by the season. The highest seaweed biomass was obtained during the warm-season. Besides, the quantity of seaweed biomass collected at Yoff was greater compared to Kayar regardless of the period (fig- 9).



**Fig-9: Biomass and total density of macroalgae on the North Coast by season and by site**

Biomass of macroalgae species on the North Coast by season are given in table- 4. *Meristotheca senegalensis* had the highest biomass with 1682 and 1170 respectively during the warm-season 2017 and 2018. It was followed by *Ceramium rubrum var. pacificum* with 355.1 and 338.3 g. During the cold-season 2018 and 2019, the highest value of biomass was recorded for *Caulacanthus ustulatus* with respectively 535 and 583g. In 2018 and 2019 warm-season, 167 and 161 g were registered for *Ceramium rubrum var. pacificum*.

**Table-4: Biomass (g) of macroalgae from the northern coast of Senegal by season**

	WS2017 B(g)	WS2018 B(g)	CS2018 B(g)	CS2019 B(g)
<i>Amphiroa</i> sp	0	6	0	0
<i>Gymnogongrus crenulatus</i>	0	0	4,1	0
<i>Meristotheca senegalensis</i>	1682	1170	0	0
<i>Caulacanthus ustulatus</i>	108,4	108,8	535,4	583
<i>Ceramium rubrum</i> var. <i>pacificum</i>	355,1	338,3	167,4	160,5
<i>Laurencia pinnatifida</i>	29	0	0	0
<i>Laurencia obtusa</i>	66	57	0	0
<i>Dictyota dichotoma</i>	29	9	134,1	90,8
<i>Dictyota ciliolata</i>	16	9	0	0
<i>Dictyopteris delicatula</i>	39	47	0	0
<i>Bryopsis plumosa</i>	5	0	14,3	12
<i>Caulerpa racemosa</i> var. <i>peltata</i>	0	0	120	130

### Density of macroalgae on the northern coast of Senegal by season

In each year during the warm season 2017 and 2018 the highest density was recorded for *Meristotheca senegalensis* with respectively 34 and 23.6 g.m<sup>2</sup>. It was followed by *Ceramium rubrum* var. *pacificum* with 7 and 6.8 g.m<sup>2</sup> respectively in 2017 and 2018 warm season.

Our results also showed that *Caulacanthus ustulatus* had the greatest density in the cold season 2018 and 2019 with respectively 10.8 and 11.7 g.m<sup>2</sup>. The density of other species (*Amphiroa* sp, *Gymnogongrus crenulatus*, *Laurencia pinnatifida*, *Laurencia obtusa*, *Dictyota dichotoma*, *Dictyota ciliolata*, *Dictyopteris delicatula*, *Bryopsis plumosa* and *Caulerpa racemosa* var. *peltata*) remained low under 3.3 g.m<sup>2</sup>.

**Table-5: Density (g / m<sup>2</sup>) of macroalgae from the northern Coast of Senegal by season**

	WS2017 (g/m <sup>2</sup> )	WS2018 (g/m <sup>2</sup> )	CS2018 (g/m <sup>2</sup> )	CS2019 (g/m <sup>2</sup> )
<i>Amphiroa</i> sp	0	0,1	0	0
<i>Gymnogongrus crenulatus</i>	0	0	0,08	0
<i>Meristotheca senegalensis</i>	34	23,6	0	0
<i>Caulacanthus ustulatus</i>	2	2,1	10,8	11,7
<i>Ceramium rubrum</i> var. <i>pacificum</i>	7	6,8	3,3	3,2
<i>Laurencia pinnatifida</i>	0,5	0	0	0
<i>Laurencia obtusa</i>	1,3	1,1	0	0
<i>Dictyota dichotoma</i>	0,5	0,1	2,7	1,8
<i>Dictyota ciliolata</i>	0,3	0,1	0	0
<i>Dictyopteris delicatula</i>	0,7	0,9	0	0
<i>Bryopsis plumosa</i>	0,1	0	0,2	0,2
<i>Caulerpa racemosa</i> var. <i>peltata</i>	0	0	2,4	2,6

### Biomass and density of macroalgae by site and season in the northern coast of Senegal

#### Biomass and density of macroalgae in Yoff by season

At Yoff, *Meristotheca senegalensis* was the most important species in term of biomass (1682 g) and

density (169.8g.m<sup>2</sup>) during the warm season 2017. During the cold season, the highest biomass and density were recorded for *Caulacanthus ustulatus* with respectively 519.1 g and 52.4 g.m<sup>2</sup> in 2018 and 539.7 g or 54.4 g.m<sup>2</sup> in 2019.

**Table-6: Biomass and density of macroalgae in Yoff by season**

	WS2017Yoff		WS2018Yoff		CS2018Yoff		CS2019Yoff	
	B(g)	D(g/m <sup>2</sup> )	B(g)	D(g/m <sup>2</sup> )	B (g)	D(g/m <sup>2</sup> )	B (g)	D(g/m <sup>2</sup> )
<i>Amphiroa</i> sp	0	0	6	0,6	0	0	0	0
<i>Gymnogongrus crenulatus</i>	0	0	0	0	4,1	0,4	0	0
<i>Meristotheca senegalensis</i>	1682	169,8	1170	118,1	0	0	0	0
<i>Caulacanthus ustulatus</i>	0	0	0	0	519,1	52,4	539,7	54,4
<i>Laurencia pinnatifida</i>	29	2,9	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Laurencia obtusa</i>	66	6,6	57	5,7	0	0	0	0
<i>Dictyota dichotoma</i>	29	2,9	9	0,9	134,1	13,5	90,8	9,1
<i>Dictyota ciliolata</i>	16	1,6	9	0,9	0	0	0	0
<i>Dictyopteris delicatula</i>	39	3,9	47	4,7	0	0	0	0
<i>Bryopsis plumosa</i>	0	0	0	0	14,3	1,4	12	1,2
<i>Caulerpa racemosa</i> var. <i>peltata</i>	0	0	0	0	120	12,1	130	13,1

**The biomass and density of macroalgae in Kayar by season**

The table- 7 showed the biomass and density of seaweed by season and site.

In Kayar, *Ceramium rubrum* var. *pacificum* and *Caulacanthus ustulatus* had the highest biomass and density while the presence of *Bryopsis plumosa* remained low and where only noticed during the 2017 warm season. The results also showed that the biomass

of *Caulacanthus ustulatus* was more important during the cold seasons compared to warm seasons. Their density was 35.8 g.m<sup>2</sup> and 34 g.m<sup>2</sup> respectively in 2017 and 2018 warm season and 16.9 g.m<sup>2</sup> and 16.2 g.m<sup>2</sup> respectively in 2018 and 2019 cold season. It appeared also that *Meristotheca senegalensis* was the most abundant species in Yoff while *Ceramium rubrum* var. *pacificum* was the most important.

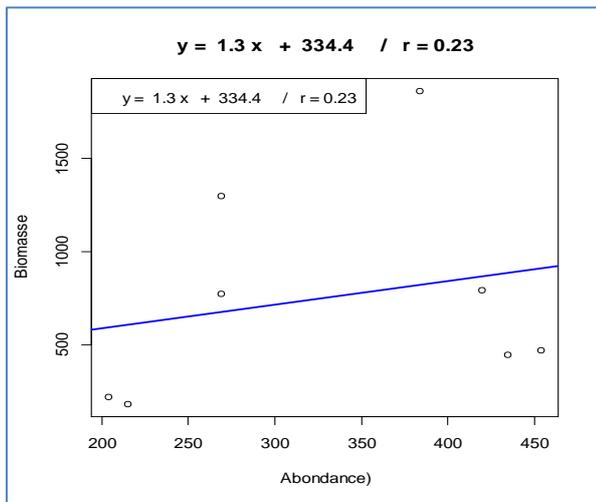
**Table-7: The biomass and density of macroalgae in Kayar by season**

	WS2017KAYAR		WS2018KAYAR		CS2018KAYAR		CS2019KAYAR	
	B (g)	D (g/m <sup>2</sup> )						
<i>Caulacanthus ustulatus</i>	108,4	10,9	108,8	10,9	16,3	1,6	43,3	4,3
<i>Ceramium rubrum</i> var. <i>pacificum</i>	355,1	35,8	338,3	34	167,4	16,9	160,5	16,2
<i>Bryopsis plumosa</i>	5	0,5	0	0	0	0	0	0

**B = Biomass, D = Density**

**Relationship between Biomass and the abundance of macroalgae**

The study of linear correlation between the seaweed biomass and their abundance showed that the biomass was not significantly affected by the seaweed density with a correlation coefficient of 0.23 (r = 0.23). Fig- 10 Correlation between seaweed biomass and abundance.



**Fig-10: Relationship between Biomass and the relative abundance of macroalgae by site and season of the northern coast of Senegal**

**DISCUSSION**

Twelve species of macroalgae were identified based on the field survey data collected for 2 years from April 2017 to May 2019 in the northern coast of Senegal. These species belonged to 3 classes, 8 families and 10 genera. The region of Brittany is more abundant in macroalgae than the northern coast of Senegal, if we consider the results of [15, 11]. This flora is not very diversified compared to that of the center which has 98 species [27], the small coast which has 242 species [23] and the islands of Dakar which has 38 species [19].

All the species were found at Yoff and Kayar while any species was recorded in the others locations (Mboro, Loumpoul, Saint-Louis). In these locations, the substratum is exclusively formed by sandy soil which might be related to the absence of seaweed in this part.

It suggests that in the intertidal zone of the northern coast of Senegal, the distribution and abundance of macroalgae are influenced by the substrates and exposure condition. Substrates are important components that play role in the growth and presence of macroalgae [31, 9, 5, 21, 20].

This study highlighted that most of species had low frequency which supports [7] who observed that the macroalgae in the northern coast of Senegal was accidental with a relative frequency under 25%. Among the recorded species, *Meristotheca senegalensis*, *Ceramium rubrum* var. *pacificum*, *Caulacanthus ustulatus* and *Dictyota dichotoma* are the most common species.

According to the locality, *Ceramium rubrum* var. *pacificum* was the most encountered species in Kayar while *Meristotheca senegalensis* was the most frequent species at Yoff.

During the present investigation it was observed that the biomass and the density of seaweed were higher during the warm-season. According to [1, 18], most of the macroalgae have a preference for relatively warm waters (25 °C).

On the other hand, species such as *Gymnogongrus crenulatus*, *Dictyota dichotoma* and *Bryopsis plumosa* are more abundant during cold-season. Besides, [14] showed that *Dictyota dichotoma* and *Bryopsis plumosa* proliferation are occurring during summer under the Mediterranean conditions.

Despite the greater diversity of species encountered at Yoff, the highest abundance and density was recorded at Kayar mainly because of *Ceramium rubrum* var. *pacificum* proliferation. The abundance of the genus *Ceramium* was also reported by [13] in the Mediterranean Sea during spring.

During the warm-season 2017 and 2018 the highest density of seaweed was recorded at Kayar with respectively 454 and 435 individuals.

Underexploited in Senegal, seaweed nonetheless represents a source of economic and social value for the populations living along the country's coast. The study showed that the quantity of macroalgae harvested along Senegalese largest coast is low under 50 g.m<sup>-2</sup> compared to Ngor bay where the quantity of biomass per square meter is estimated [27] to 3310 g.m<sup>-2</sup>. It appeared from this study that both density and biomass were most abundant to warm-season compared to cold-season. It may result from the abundance of succulent lamellar species such as *Meristotheca senegalensis* during the warm-season.

## CONCLUSION

This work was undertaken with the aim of better knowing and understanding the dynamics of the quantity of macroalgae available in the north coast of Senegal. It emerges from this study that 12 species of algae distributed in 3 classes, 10 genera and 08 families have been recorded in the north coast of Senegal. *Ceramium rubrum* var. *pacificum* (5.8% of quadrats) and *Caulacanthus ustulatus* (4.8% of quadrats) are the most frequent species in the area, respectively in the hot and cold season. *Ceramium rubrum* var. *pacificum* is the most abundant and dense species in terms of number of individuals but the *Meristotheca senegalensis* has the highest biomass with: 1682 grams in 2017 or 33.9 g / m<sup>2</sup> and 1170 grams in 2018 harvested or 23 , 6 33.9 g / m<sup>2</sup> in an area of 49.5 m<sup>2</sup>.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are thankful to the NGO OCEANIUM for providing us with divers and complete equipment for this work.

## Conflict of Interest

The authors hereby declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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