Distribution of epiphytic macrophytes on Gongolaria barbata in the coastal zone of Georgia, biodiversity and ecological consequences

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Epiphytes are filamentous algae that are widely distributed in both fresh and brackish waters. They mainly inhabit various substrates, especially large algae, including the perennial chestnut moss Gongolaria barbata. Epiphytic macrophytes were studied on a species of the genus Cystoseira, where the study was conducted on the Black Sea coast of Georgia, in two seasons - September 2024 and July 2025. Seasonal study of epiphytic macrophytes, hydrobiological sampling was carried out with the help of a diver, where the number of samples at both hydrobiological stations was 13 in total.

9 species of epiphytic macrophytes were identified in the Sarpi and Tsikhisdziri water areas, the frequency and distribution of which varied depending on the season and trophic level.