

Project is focused on the diversity of small crustaceans of order Tanaidacea. Those tiny, just 2-3 mm long marine invertebrates are amongst most diverse, but poorly studied deep-sea organisms. There are about 1300 species of Tanaidacea described so far, although the real number of species is most probably an order of magnitude higher. There is an urgent need to assess this still undescribed diversity, especially in the sites vulnerable from potential deep-sea mining. During implementation of the project we propose the pioneering analyses describing Tanaidacea diversity and the character of their communities at abyssal depths (5000 m) of the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Unique material obtained within a framework of a few international marine programs (e.g. MANGAN, BioNod, KuramBio, JPIO) and implementation of the-state-of-art molecular and statistical methodology allow us to test the hypotheses concerning the factors shaping distribution and biodiversity on the oceanic seafloor (*isolation by distance* hypothesis, problem of *habitat heterogeneity*, influence of *productivity* on deep-sea fauna). Furthermore, we will be able describe for the first time resilience and ratio of recovery processes after experimental deep-sea mining activities.