

Dr Sabine Dittmann



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Research Interests

- coastal ecosystems, especially intertidal and estuarine areas
- biology and community ecology of soft-bottom benthic organisms

Qualifications

The focus of Sabine's research is on coastal ecosystems, especially intertidal and estuarine areas, where she has a particular interest in the biology and community ecology of soft-bottom benthic organisms.

She works with both meio- and macrozoobenthos, with a special interest in polychaetes and platyhelminths.

Descriptive studies and manipulative field experiments are applied to investigate repressive as well as promotive interactions between organisms to understand major processes structuring and regulating community compositions in soft-sediment systems. Benthic animals are thus used to test hypotheses in a wider context of ecological theory.

Current Research Projects

- Assessing benthic species diversity and distribution patterns in nearshore soft-sediment systems of South Australia (surveying benthic faunal diversity, temporal and spatial distribution patterns)
- Trophic interactions (grazing, fate of mangrove and seagrass detritus, predation and scavenging)
- Invasive species (biology of aliens, ecological change brought about by invasive species)
- Comparative studies (sizes and species frequencies of benthic fauna in temperate and tropical tidal flats; successional dynamics and recruitment patterns)

Research Collaborations and Partners

SARDI – Sabine is a key researcher in the Coorong, Lower Lakes & Murray Mouth (CLLAMM) Ecology Project - a significant CSIRO Water for a Healthy Country Flagship Project re Sustaining the Environmental Health and ecological processes of the Lower Murray - Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth

Professional Affiliations

Committees

- Conducting multidisciplinary collaborative research on Australia's biodiversity & landscapes
- Providing innovative interpretation of biodiversity research for a wide variety of end-users