

Presentation of MAR-ECO students

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Working title of project: *The distribution of Lophogastrida (Crustacea) along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.*

Summary of Project: The Mid-Atlantic Ridge (MAR) contains relatively large and unexplored areas. On the Mar-Eco cruise in June-July 2004 a large amount of pelagic Crustaceans were captured. Of these Crustaceans natant Decapods and Lophogastrids were especially numerous. The order Lophogastrida is thought to be a primitive group of Crustaceans that comprise three different families (Eucopiidae, Gnathophausiidae and Lophogastridae). In this project the species diversity of Lophogastrids will be determined at different vertical layers and horizontally along the MAR. Further aims will be to determine to what degree the subpolar front and the MAR create barriers for the north-south and east-west distribution of Lophogastrids, and to determine population structures (e.g. size distribution, degree of maturity and male-female distribution) of Lophogastrids at the different areas sampled along the MAR.

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