Feeding behavior of a heterotrophic dinoflagellate, Polykrikos kofoidii

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Introduction

Polykrikos kofoidii, one of the predatory dinoflagellates, commonly breaks out at worldwide coastal areas. Few ecological behaviors, however, have been revealed yet. We observed and described the feeding behavior of *P. kofoidii*.

Materials and Methods

A seawater sample that contained some cells of P. kofoidii (predator), as well as many Gymnodinium catenatum (prey), was collected from Isahaya Bay, west Japan in November 1998. Feeding behavior of P. kofoidii was observed in culture condition of 12L:12D lighting and 20 $^{\circ}$ C in temperature.

Result and Discussion

Polykrikos kofoidii used a nematocyst to pull the prey (*G. catenatum*) into its body through the posterior sulcus, and finally engulfed it whole. A causative species of red-tide, *G. catenatum* must be controlled by *P. kofoidii* predation in natural bloom conditions.