

Table S1. Detailed information on the sampling sites of the study. The numbers in the last column (Benthic group) indicate the type of data we used from each station. 1: major metazoan meiofauna taxa; 2: nematode genera; 3 microbial species.

Station	Project/Expedition	Date of sampling	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)	Depth (m)	Area	Habitat	Benthic group
AD-1	ADIOS	Apr-01	35°08.40	20°50.62	2786	Central Mediterranean	Basin	1, 2
AD-2	ADIOS	Apr-01	35°03.96	20°30.15	2799	Central Mediterranean	Basin	1, 2
AD-3	ADIOS	Apr-01	34°52.75	20°48.77	2837	Central Mediterranean	Basin	1, 2
BD-1	BIODEEP	Sep-01	35°18.08	21°23.96	3281	Central Mediterranean	Basin	1
BD-2	BIODEEP	Sep-01	35°17.99	21°23.03	3334	Central Mediterranean	Basin	1
BD-3	BIODEEP	Sep-01	34°15.79	19°59.79	3080	Central Mediterranean	Basin	1
BD-4	BIODEEP	Sep-01	35°16.94	21°41.32	3424	Central Mediterranean	Basin	1
BD-5	BIODEEP	Sep-01	35°13.95	21°30.60	3301	Central Mediterranean	Basin	1
BF-2	BIOFUN	Jun-09	36°11.92	16°21.15	3335	Central Mediterranean	Basin	1, 2
TMC-5	MATER/TransMed	Jun-99	35°42.38	20°08.80	3200	Central Mediterranean	Basin	1, 2
BF-1	BIOFUN	Jun-09	37°39.23	16°33.35	2011	Central Mediterranean	Slope	1, 2
MET-8	METEOR 40	Dec-97	35°49.01	25°15.97	1840	Cretan Sea	Basin	1
MET-9	METEOR 40	Dec-97	35°50.52	25°15.99	1840	Cretan Sea	Basin	1
MTS-1	MATER	Mar-98	36°04.50	25°17.00	1772	Cretan Sea	Basin	1, 2
MTS-2	MATER	Mar-98	35°44.70	25°06.00	1580	Cretan Sea	Basin	1, 2
MTS-3	MATER	Mar-98	36°00.00	23°53.60	1194	Cretan Sea	Basin	1, 2
MTS-4	MATER	Mar-97	36°15.01	24°06.38	914	Cretan Sea	Basin	1
MTS-6	MATER	Mar-98	35°59.82	25°42.42	1284	Cretan Sea	Basin	1
MTS-7	MATER	Sep-97	35°39.99	26°13.02	2273	Cretan Sea	Basin	1
HER-9	HERMES	May-06	35°40.26	24°07.67	1898	Cretan Sea	Slope	1, 2
RED-4	HERMIONE & REDECO	May-10	35°45.72	25°05.99	1619	Cretan Sea	Slope	1, 3
RED-5	HERMIONE & REDECO	May-10	35°40.67	25°06.00	1049	Cretan Sea	Slope	1, 3
ER-12	HERMIONE	Jan-10	33°37.79	32°18.01	1966	Levantine Sea	Basin	1
ER-13	HERMIONE	Jan-10	33°39.02	31°31.58	2419	Levantine Sea	Basin	1
ER-3	HERMIONE	Jan-10	33°35.59	32°59.00	2043	Levantine Sea	Basin	1, 3
ER-6	HERMIONE	Jan-10	34°01.99	32°53.40	2239	Levantine Sea	Basin	1, 3

ER-9	HERMIONE	Jan-10	33°13.56	32°32.24	2017	Levantine Sea	Basin	1
HER-5	HERMES	May-06	35°05.08	28°33.16	3544	Levantine Sea	Basin	1
TMC-1	MATER/TransMed	Jun-99	35°46.29	28°43.15	3870	Levantine Sea	Basin	1, 2
TMC-3	MATER/TransMed	Jun-99	33°23.18	28°19.04	3055	Levantine Sea	Basin	1, 2
ER-1	HERMIONE	Jan-10	33°37.48	32°46.53	874	Levantine Sea	Slope	1
ER-10	HERMIONE	Jan-10	33°38.11	32°32.62	942	Levantine Sea	Slope	1
ER-11	HERMIONE	Jan-10	33°37.70	32°23.10	1529	Levantine Sea	Slope	1
ER-2	HERMIONE	Jan-10	33°36.58	32°51.51	1465	Levantine Sea	Slope	1
ER-4	HERMIONE	Jan-10	33°49.83	32°47.82	990	Levantine Sea	Slope	1
ER-5	HERMIONE	Jan-10	33°54.64	32°50.31	1482	Levantine Sea	Slope	1
ER-7	HERMIONE	Jan-10	33°33.62	32°38.05	897	Levantine Sea	Slope	1
ER-8	HERMIONE	Jan-10	33°23.50	32°34.40	1499	Levantine Sea	Slope	1
LEV-4	METEOR 71	Dec-06	30°17.30	35°27.99	1544	Levantine Sea	Slope	3
BF-5	BIOFUN	Jun-09	34°08.75	25°34.17	2845	Libyan Sea	Basin	1, 2, 3
HER-10	HERMES	May-06	34°36.19	24°08.55	3589	Libyan Sea	Basin	1, 2
HER-3	HERMES	May-06	35°03.14	23°29.53	3603	Libyan Sea	Basin	1
LEV-1	METEOR 71	Jan-07	34°30.30	26°11.51	4323	Libyan Sea	Basin	3
LEV-2	METEOR 71	Jan-07	34°24.93	26°6.981	4392	Libyan Sea	Basin	3
LEV-3	METEOR 71	Jan-07	34°21.50	25°58.50	4138	Libyan Sea	Basin	3
MET-4	METEOR 40	Dec-97	34°26.01	26°03.99	4157	Libyan Sea	Basin	1
MET-5	METEOR 40	Dec-97	34°25.00	26°04.00	4260	Libyan Sea	Basin	1
MET-6	METEOR 40	Dec-97	34°24.54	26°04.52	4261	Libyan Sea	Basin	1
RED-1_1	HERMIONE & REDECO	May-11	34°24.08	26°15.19	3564	Libyan Sea	Basin	1, 3
RED-2	HERMIONE & REDECO	May-10	33°44.58	26°08.40	2707	Libyan Sea	Basin	1
RED-2_1	HERMIONE & REDECO	May-10	33°43.00	26°20.66	2720	Libyan Sea	Basin	1, 3
RED-3_1	HERMIONE & REDECO	May-10	35°18.12	23°18.96	3315	Libyan Sea	Basin	1, 3
RED-7	HERMIONE & REDECO	May-10	34°36.11	24°08.72	3607	Libyan Sea	Basin	1, 3
TMC-4	MATER/TransMed	Jun-99	34°52.91	22°31.97	2950	Libyan Sea	Basin	1, 2
BF-3	BIOFUN	Jun-09	34°30.37	25°45.54	1204	Libyan Sea	Slope	1, 2, 3
BF-4	BIOFUN	Jun-09	34°28.60	25°52.14	2015	Libyan Sea	Slope	1, 2, 3

HER-1	HERMES	May-06	34°43.46	24°07.68	508	Libyan Sea	Slope	1
HER-2	HERMES	May-06	34°52.99	24°32.87	2670	Libyan Sea	Slope	1
HER-4	HERMES	May-06	35°01.69	23°36.86	1910	Libyan Sea	Slope	1
HER-6	HERMES	May-06	35°00.68	23°41.82	1079	Libyan Sea	Slope	1
HER-7	HERMES	May-06	34°59.01	23°48.57	520	Libyan Sea	Slope	1
HER-8	HERMES	May-06	34°41.91	24°06.53	1086	Libyan Sea	Slope	1, 2
RED-3	HERMIONE & REDECO	May-10	35°24.21	23°24.18	2980	Libyan Sea	Slope	1, 3
MET-1	METEOR 40	Dec-97	39°16.53	23°42.46	1250	Northern Aegean Sea	Basin	1
MET-2	METEOR 40	Dec-97	39°15.50	23°42.48	1221	Northern Aegean Sea	Basin	1
MET-3	METEOR 40	Dec-97	39°14.97	23°42.55	1224	Northern Aegean Sea	Basin	1
MTN-1	MATER	Mar-98	40°15.00	25°12.00	1271	Northern Aegean Sea	Basin	1, 2
MTN-2	MATER	Mar-98	40°03.76	24°36.25	965	Northern Aegean Sea	Basin	1
MTN-3	MATER	Mar-97	39°13.24	24°58.81	805	Northern Aegean Sea	Basin	1
MTN-4	MATER	Mar-98	39°47.02	25°31.43	115	Northern Aegean Sea	Basin	1
MTN-6	MATER	Mar-98	40°34.70	25°08.00	153	Northern Aegean Sea	Slope	1, 2
MTN-8	MATER	Mar-98	40°25.61	25°09.80	340	Northern Aegean Sea	Slope	1, 2
MTN-9	MATER	Mar-98	40°18.73	25°10.12	675	Northern Aegean Sea	Slope	1, 2