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A Study on the Community Structure of Subtidal Marine Algae in Kijang, Korea

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A subtidal marine benthic algal vegetation at Kijang, the southern east of Korea was investigated to clarify the community structure and the pattern of geographical distribution by a quadrat method along a transect line between February 2006 and January 2007. Total 59 species including 6 of green algae, 14 of brown algae, 39 of red algae were collected and identified. Among these species, 14 species were found throughout the year. Annual mean biomass in wet weight of total vegetation, maximum biomass was recorded in winter and spring seasons, and decreased in summer season. Dominant species was *Prionitis cornea* in terms of biomass, and subdominant species were *Phycodrys fimbriata* and *Gelidium amansii*. Coarsely branched form was the most abundant accounting 64.4% of the total value. Seasonal variations in algal biomass were principally linked to fluctuations in biomass of coarsely branched and thick leathery form algae. The R/P, C/P and (R+C)/P value reflection flora characteristics were 2.79, 0.43 and 3.21, respectively. Two groups produced by cluster analysis, one including sites Duho, Dongbaek and the other including sites Seoam, Mundong, showed meaningful difference in similarity, each other. In conclusion, the number of marine algae species in Kijang was reduced comparing with the previous studies.

Keywords: biomass, cluster analysis, coarsely branched, community structure, similarity

INTRODUCTION

Local marine algal community is often positively influenced by the presence of habitat forming or habitat modifying organisms (Thompson *et al.*, 1996; Bates and DeWreede, 2007). The importance of biogenic habitat provision and of positive interactions in general is increasingly acknowledged, particularly in marine systems (Bertness *et al.*, 1999; Bruno *et al.*, 2003). Biogenic habitat provision is most often investigated as the creation or modification of habitat by one species for a group of other species (Castilla *et al.*, 2004).

In the marine environment, it is possible that global change (e.g. increasing ocean acidification) will combine with local impacts (e.g. nutrient release) to accelerate ecological change across broader areas of coast (Russell *et al.*, 2009). On temperate coasts, the most densely populated coasts of the globe, perennial canopies of algae (e.g. kelp forests) and their associated understory have been replaced by mats of turf-forming algae near expanding human populations that discharge nutrients (Eriksson *et al.*, 2002; Airoidi and Beck, 2007; Connell *et al.*, 2008). These environment changes may be used by organisms as cues to begin or end various activities such as reproduction.

Anthropogenic changes in seaweed diversity and community have been observed in nearshore marine environments from many regions throughout the world.

Anthropogenic stressors that result in changes in seaweed assemblages include eutrophication, silt deposition, habitat alienation, and harvest of predators or herbivores (Bates and DeWreede, 2009). These observed changes involve different components of biodiversity, including the number and identity of seaweed species and functional groups. Thus, studies of marine algal flora for any region have not only set out the distributional data concerning each species, but also have provided much valuable ecological information on local communities (Boo and Lee, 1986).

The east and south-east coast of Korea has been attracted attention because of its hydrographical and biological distinctness and inclusively recognized as a temperate region in view of the biogeographical distribution of marine benthic algae by many phycologists (Boo and Lee, 1986; Chung *et al.*, 1991; Choi *et al.*, 2006; Sohn *et al.*, 2007). In east and south-east coasts, many marine algal community studies were focused on intertidal zone (Lee and Oh, 1986; Kang *et al.*, 2008) and a few in subtidal zones. Because of the difficulties and limited of sampling, much valuable information on subtidal marine algae has been obtained by SCUBA diving at several places around Korean coasts (Chung *et al.*, 1991; Choi *et al.*, 2008; Ko *et al.*, 2008).

This paper is prepared for knowledge on the floristic composition and seasonal periodicity of marine algae of the south-east coast of Korea which shows characteristics of typical temperate flora. Study area was selected on the subtidal shore of a Kijang, and the community structure of marine algae was investigated at a study area.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The collection and observation of subtidal macroalgae

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Fig. 1. Map showing the investigated localities.

were carried out at 4 sites chosen as representative areas that were accessible by SCUBA diving during the period from February 2006 to January 2007 (Fig. 1), using a quadrat method along a vertical transect line set across the subtidal zone perpendicularly to the coastal line.

The specimens (excluding crustose forms) were scraped out the substratum using a paint-scraper and placed in numbered fine-mesh bags. All samples were preserved in 5–10% formalin-seawater solution and transferred to the laboratory for identification. The classification of taxa was followed by Kang (1968) and Lee and Kang (1986, 2001). They were washed and cleaned to

sort species to measure fresh weight per m².

In order to analyze floristic composition value of the vegetations, C/P (Segawa, 1956), R/P (Feldmann, 1937), and (R+C)/P (Cheney, 1977) ratio were adopted. The similarity of flora was compared to group-average using PRIMER (Plymouth Routines Multivariate Ecological Research) computer package when the data consists of species presence-absence data (Clarke and Gorley, 2006).

RESULTS

A total of 59 taxa are recorded in seasonally survey during the period, as listed in Table 1 and 2; 6 Chlorophyta, 14 Phaeophyta and 39 Rhodophyta. The numbers of brown algae are the highest from winter to spring season, whereas the numbers of red algae are the highest in summer and autumn season (Table 1). The largest number of marine algal species was found at Mundong throughout the study period. On the other hand, the smallest number of species was found from 6 (autumn) to 21 (summer) at Duho area (Table 2). The seasonal occurrence of the algae changes markedly through the year. The seasonal patterns of total numbers of species found at each site are shown in Table 2. Seasonal occurrences of these species were 35, 40, 36 and 31 for winter, spring, summer and autumn, respectively. Numbers of macroalgal species showed highest at spring, minima were recorded at autumn.

Fourteen species found at all four seasons throughout all study area. They are *Ulva pertusa* of green algae, *Ecklonia cava* of brown algae, and *Gelidium amansii*, *Lithophyllum okamurae*, *Corallina pilulifera*, *Prionitis cornea*, *Plocamium telfairiae*,

Table 1. A list of marine algal species found at study sites

Species	Winter				Spring				Summer				Autumn			
	SA	DH	DB	MD	SA	DH	DB	MD	SA	DH	DB	MD	SA	DH	DB	MD
Chlorophyta																
<i>Enteromorpha linza</i>					+											
<i>Ulva pertusa</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Cladophora sakaii</i>										+	+					
<i>Bryopsis plumosa</i>							+		+				+			
<i>Codium adhaerens</i>	+		+	+	+	+			+	+	+					
<i>Codium fragile</i>	+															
Phaeophyta																
<i>Colpomenia sinuosa</i>	+	+	+	+	+		+	+								+
<i>Undaria pinnatifida</i>	+	+	+	+			+	+								
<i>Ecklonia cava</i>				+				+	+		+	+				+
<i>Ecklonia stolonifera</i>				+				+								
<i>Dictyopteris latiuscula</i>																+
<i>Dictyopteris prolifera</i>				+	+		+	+			+					
<i>Dictyota dichotoma</i>										+	+					
<i>Dilophus okamurae</i>				+		+	+	+			+					
<i>Padina arborescens</i>				+			+	+								
<i>Sargassum fulvellum</i>	+			+				+								

*SA: Seoam, DH: Duho, DB: Dongbaek, MD: Mundong.

Table 1. (Continued)

Species	Winter				Spring				Summer				Autumn			
	SA	DH	DB	MD	SA	DH	DB	MD	SA	DH	DB	MD	SA	DH	DB	MD
<i>Sargassum giganteifolium</i>												+				
<i>Sargassum horneri</i>	+				+	+	+	+					+	+		+
<i>Sargassum macrocarpum</i>												+				
<i>Sargassum ringgoldianum</i>								+				+				
Rhodophyta																
<i>Scinaia japonica</i>								+								
<i>Gelidium amansii</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+
<i>Pterocladia capillacea</i>					+					+	+				+	
<i>Peyssonelia caulifera</i>									+			+	+			
<i>Hildenbrandtia rubra</i>					+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				+
<i>Lithophyllum okamurae</i>		+	+	+	+		+		+	+			+			+
<i>Lithothamnion cystocarpioideum</i>					+	+	+	+	+	+		+				
<i>Porolithon colliculosum</i>									+	+		+				
<i>Amphiroa beauvoisii</i>									+							+
<i>Amphiroa dilatata</i>				+		+	+	+			+					
<i>Corallina officinalis</i>								+				+				
<i>Corallina pilulifera</i>	+		+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+		+	+
<i>Prionitis cornea</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+		+	+
<i>Grateloupia elliptica</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+				
<i>Grateloupia turuturu</i>			+	+									+			
<i>Halymeniopsis dilatata</i>											+	+				
<i>Chondrococcus hornemannii</i>													+			+
<i>Plocamium telfairiae</i>	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Phacelocarpus japonicus</i>		+			+	+			+			+				
<i>Gracilaria textorii</i>	+		+	+		+	+	+								
<i>Ahnfeltiopsis flabelliformis</i>					+										+	
<i>Chondrus crispus</i>															+	
<i>Chondrus ocellatus</i>				+			+		+	+	+	+				
<i>Chondracanthus intermedia</i>				+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+			+	
<i>Chondracanthus tenellus</i>			+	+			+	+	+	+	+	+	+			
<i>Rhodymenia intricata</i>	+		+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	
<i>Lomentaria catenata</i>			+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	
<i>Ceramioopsis japonica</i>				+												
<i>Acrosorium polyneurum</i>		+	+	+		+	+	+		+	+	+	+		+	+
<i>Acrosorium uncinatum</i>					+		+									
<i>Acrosorium yendoii</i>		+	+													
<i>Phycodrys fimbriata</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+			+		+		+	+	
<i>Heterosiphonia japonica</i>	+															+
<i>Chondria crassicaulis</i>	+				+		+									+
<i>Laurencia pinnata</i>									+				+			+
<i>Polysiphonia morrowii</i>								+								+
<i>Polysiphonia yendoii</i>				+												
<i>Symphyocladia latiuscula</i>															+	
Melobesioidean algae	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

*SA: Seoam, DH: Duho, DB: Dongbaek, MD: Mundong.

Table 2. Marine algal and floristic composition at study sites

Species	Winter				Spring				Summer				Autumn				Total
	SA	DH	DB	MD	SA	DH	DB	MD	SA	DH	DB	MD	SA	DH	DB	MD	
Chlorophyta	3	1	2	2	3	2	2	1	3	3	3	1	2	1	1	1	6
Phaeophyta	4	2	2	8	3	2	6	10	1	1	4	4	1	1	0	4	14
Rhodophyta	11	10	15	18	17	15	20	17	19	17	16	19	14	4	13	14	39
Sum	18	13	19	28	23	19	28	28	23	21	23	24	17	6	14	19	59

community measured throughout the survey periods (Table 3). Mean biomass of marine algal species showed different according to the stations and seasons. The dominant species for biomass at Seoam and Dongbaek were *Phycodrys fimbriata*, while at Duho and Mundong were

Phycodrys fimbriata, while at Duho and Mundong were

Table 3. Seasonal mean biomass (fresh weight g m⁻²) of algal species at study sites

Species	Winter				Spring				Summer				Autumn			
	SA	DH	DB	MD	SA	DH	DB	MD	SA	DH	DB	MD	SA	DH	DB	MD
Chlorophyta																
<i>Ulva pertusa</i>	22.8	0.4	0.8	2.4	0.4	1.2	8.4	0.4	8.0		2.0	2.0	6.4	0.4	14.4	10.8
<i>Bryopsis plumosa</i>									0.4				0.4			
<i>Codium fragile</i>	2.0															
Phaeophyta																
<i>Colpomenia sinuosa</i>				53.6			1.2	0.4								0.4
<i>Ecklonia cava</i>								164.4				99.6				174.0
<i>Dictyopteris latiuscula</i>																61.6
<i>Dictyopteris prolifera</i>				323.6				1026.8								
<i>Dictyota dichotoma</i>										10.8						
<i>Dilophus okamurae</i>				37.6			133.6									
<i>Sargassum giganteifolium</i>												44.4				
<i>Sargassum horneri</i>	186.0				783.2								0.4	10.0		0.4
Rhodophyta																
<i>Scinaia japonica</i>								148.0								
<i>Gelidium amansii</i>	0.4	2.0	43.6	3.2	91.2	29.2	107.6	9.2	253.2	308.4	136.4	13.2	40.8		10.0	8.8
<i>Pterocladia capillacea</i>					0.8										6.8	
<i>Peyssonelia caulifera</i>												0.4	6.4			
<i>Hildenbrandtia rubra</i>																12.4
<i>Lithophyllum okamurae</i>		16.0	0.4				1.6						5.6			6.0
<i>Lithothamnion cystocarpioideum</i>									20.8			0.4				
<i>Porolithon colliculosum</i>									8.4	10.4		4.0				
<i>Amphiroa beauvoisii</i>									3.2							19.2
<i>Amphiroa dilatata</i>				1.2			0.4	0.4								
<i>Corallina officinalis</i>								3.6				17.6				
<i>Corallina pilulifera</i>			27.2		0.4				2.4			8.4	8.0		8.8	304.8
<i>Prionitis cornea</i>	79.2	600.8		1.2	90.4	22.8	314.0	167.2	177.2	218.4	274.0		70.8		355.6	0.4
<i>Grateloupia elliptica</i>					12.4		218.4		217.2	20.8						
<i>Grateloupia turuturu</i>			0.8										6.0			
<i>Halymeniopsis dilatata</i>											28.0	2.8				
<i>Chondrococcus hornemannii</i>													38.0			1.2
<i>Plocamium telfairiae</i>	49.6	0.4		10.4		17.6		2.4	7.2		0.4	2.0	49.6	0.8	28.4	343.2
<i>Phacelocarpus japonicus</i>		0.4				1.6						1.6				
<i>Gracilaria textorii</i>	24.0		14.0	3.6		31.2		109.6								
<i>Ahnfeltiopsis flabelliformis</i>					0.8										7.2	
<i>Chondrus crispus</i>															4.4	
<i>Chondrus ocellatus</i>				2.4			53.6		1.6	14.0		3.6				
<i>Chondracanthus intermedia</i>				0.4			49.2			2.0					22.8	
<i>Chondracanthus tenellus</i>			1.2	28.8			190.4	240.0	3.6	3.2	235.2	0.8	22.0			
<i>Rhodymenia intricata</i>	30.0		28.2		22.4	165.6	188.8		78.0	147.6	18.8	16.0	0.8		37.2	
<i>Lomentaria catenata</i>				2.0	0.8		22.8		2.0	2.0	2.0	7.6	27.6		55.6	
<i>Ceramioipsis japonica</i>				1.2												
<i>Acrosorium polyneurum</i>		108.8		16.4		12.8	298.4	8.8		6.0	24.8	6.4	6.0		63.2	29.2
<i>Acrosorium yendoii</i>		16.8	15.2													
<i>Phycodrys fimbriata</i>	1133.6	495.2	68.4		6.0	840.8						62.8		19.2	5.6	
<i>Heterosiphonia japonica</i>	0.8															1.2
<i>Chondria crassicaulis</i>	15.2															3.2
<i>Laurencia pinnata</i>									3.6				26.4			24.0
<i>Polysiphonia morrowii</i>								0.8								10.0
<i>Polysiphonia yendoii</i>				4.4												
<i>Symphyocladia latiuscula</i>														0.8		

Table 4. Composition ratio (%) of macroalgal functional form group investigated at study sites

Functional form	Winter	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Total
Sheet	8.6	7.5	5.6	6.5	6.8
Coarsely branched	62.9	60.0	58.3	67.7	64.4
Thick leathery	17.1	15.0	8.3	9.7	11.9
Filamentous	0.0	0.0	2.8	0.0	1.7
Jointed calcareous	5.7	7.5	11.1	6.5	6.8
Crustose	5.7	10.0	13.9	9.7	8.5

Table 5. The comparison of value of R/P, C/P, (R+C)/P ratio between the previous studies at the east coast, Korea

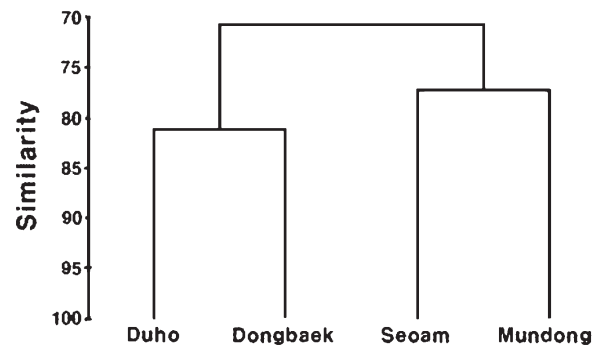
Reference	Flora characteristics ratio		
	R/P	C/P	(R+C)/P
Lee et al. (1997)	2.92	0.54	3.46
Nam and Kim (1999)	2.19	0.50	2.69
Yoo (2003)	2.76	0.35	3.12
Choi (2007)	2.33	0.48	2.81
Kang et al. (2008)	4.47	0.59	5.06
This study	2.79	0.43	3.21

Prionitis cornea and *Dictyopteris prolifera* in winter, respectively. *Prionitis cornea* of red algae was 314.0 g m⁻² in spring, 274.0 g m⁻² in summer and 355.6 g m⁻² in autumn at Dongbaek respectively, so that it was the highest in autumn and the lowest in summer. The biomass differed according to the seasons at all sites and the increased gradually during the winter and spring seasons, and decreased in summer season.

In case of biomass, the algal community of study area was dominated by *Gelidium amansii*, *Prionitis cornea*, *Plocamium telfairiae*, *Rhodymenia intricate* and *Acrosorium polyneurum* throughout the year, and subdominated by *Gracilaria textorii* and *Phycodrys fibriata* in winter and spring, *Grateloupia elliptica* and *Chondracanthus tenellus* in summer, and *Corallina pilulifera* in autumn.

Functional form groups (sheet, coarsely branched, thick leathery, filamentous, jointed calcareous and crustose) were observed and fluctuated seasonally at study sites (Table 4). During the survey period, coarsely branched form was the most highest about 64.4% among the functional form groups. Annual variations were also high mainly in coarsely branched form between 58.3% and 67.7%, respectively. The mean biomass of coarsely branched form marine algae was greater throughout the study period than other functional form groups (Table 3). In case of thick leathery form, proportion was observed between 8.3% and 17.1% according to the season, respectively. However, seasonal proportion of the other group marine algae fluctuated within 15% during the study period. These results indicate that seasonal variations in proportion were principally linked to fluctuations in proportion of coarsely branched and thick leathery form marine algae.

The comparison of value of R/P, C/P, and (R+C)/P

**Fig. 2.** A dendrogram produced by clustering location flora using average linkage at 4 sampling sites at Kijang.

ratio during the study period at Kijang coast was given in Table 5. A total of 59 taxa are recorded in seasonally survey during the period, as listed in Table 1; 6 green, 14 brown and 39 red algae. The C/P value ranges from 0.33 in winter to 0.57 in summer and 0.43 in total at study sites. Thus, the R/P, C/P, and (R+C)/P value were 2.79, 0.43, and 3.21 in this survey, respectively.

The dendrograms by clustering seasonally flora on the basis of the similarities of the species composition are shown in Fig. 2. Community structure of subtidal marine algae could be divided into two groups on 70% level of threshold. In view of marine algae composition, the first group in Duho and Dongbaek can be represents the characteristics on 80% level of similarity, as shown in Fig. 2. The representative species in this site are *Cladophora sakaii*, *Codium adhaerens*, *Dictyota dichotoma*, *Dilophus okamurae*, *Pterocladia capillaceae* and *Acrosorium yendoii*. The second group represents the characteristics of Seoam and Mundong site flora. The typical species in Seoam and Mundong are *Colpomenia sinuosa*, *Ecklonia cava*, *Ecklonia stolonifera*, *Padina arborescens*, *Sargassum fulvellum*, *Sargassum ringgoldianum*, *Peyssonnelia caulifera*, *Phacelocarpus japonicas*, *Chondria crassicaulis* and *Laurencia pinnata*. Based on these comparisons, brown algae were absolutely representation the second group such as Seoam and Mundong flora rather than the first group (Duho and Dongbaek).

DISCUSSION

In general, marine algae were divided into three groups; 1) species occurred in the cold current area, 2) species occurred in the warm current area, and 3) species occurred commonly in both of the areas (Notoya and

Aruga, 1989). This study area is belonged to the Southern East Coast Section by Kang (1966). A total of 59 species was identified during the present investigation. Among this present species, marine algae mainly represented in the warm current area and commonly in both of the areas. Sargassaceous plants mainly occurred in the warm current area; *Ecklonia cava*, *Ecklonia stolonifera*, *Sargassum fulvellum*, *Sargassum macrocarpum* and *Sargassum ringgoldianum*. *Ecklonia* spp. is included in the warm current species even though it belongs to the Laminariales. *Undaria pinnatifida* and *Sargassum horneri* were found at commonly in both of the areas.

The flora and community structure of benthic marine algae in Ilkwang Bay near this study sites (Kang *et al.*, 2008) reported that the subtidal vegetation is dominated by *Enteromorpha linza*, *Ulva pertusa*, *Ecklonia cava*, *Sargassum thunbergii*, *Amphiroa anceps*, *Corallina pilulifera*, *Gelidium amansii*, *Chondracanthus tenellus*, *Chondrus ocellatus*, *Hypnea charoides*, *Ahnfeltiopsis flabelliformis*, *Grateloupia elliptica*, *Grateloupia filicina*, *Grateloupia lanceolata*, *Prionitis cornea*, *Plocamium telfairiae*, *Champia parvula*, *Acrosorium yendoii* and *Symphyclocladia latiuscula*. In this study, we found representation species throughout all survey area by *Ulva pertusa*, *Ecklonia cava*, *Gelidium amansii*, *Lithophyllum okamuriae*, *Corallina pilulifera*, *Prionitis cornea*, *Plocamium telfairiae*, *Chondracanthus intermedia*, *C. tenellus*, *Rhodomenia intricate*, *Lomentaria catenata*, *Acrosorium polyneurum*, *Phycodrys fimbriata* and Melobesioidean coralline algae. These results indicate that the dominant species similar compare with previous study (Kang *et al.*, 2008) and this survey results. Due to the plenty of results on the other subtidal studies in southern east coasts of Korea.

Kang *et al.* (2008) suggested the biomass proportion of marine algae in Ilkwang Bay were fewer about 478.3 g wet weight m⁻² than previous studies (Lee *et al.*, 1984; Nam and Kim, 1999) including the present results (Table 3). Compare with previous study (Lee *et al.*, 1984; Nam and Kim, 1999; Choi, 2007), number of species were similar or decrease each other in total and respective division. Recently, global climate and anthropogenic changes in marine algae diversity as a driver of ecological patterns across local through biogeographic scales has long been of legitimate concern to ecology (Bates *et al.*, 2007; Choi, 2007; Russell *et al.*, 2009). Therefore, the currently observed decrease of marine algal species and reduced biomass is likely to be exacerbated under future climates, human activities and anthropogenic changes in coastal areas.

Marine algal species and biomass is affected by the functional group of dominant marine algae (Littler and Littler, 1984; Wan *et al.*, 2009). In general, marine algal biomass is greater at the community with brown algae such as Laminariales and Sargassaceous plants as dominant algae than green and red algae (Prathep, 2005). The algal biomass of southern east and mid east coast (Nam, 1986; Chung *et al.*, 1991; Kang *et al.*, 2008) is influenced severely by the large brown algae in the community. In

particular, biomass of *Myagropsis myagroides* and *Sargassum horneri* were high in autumn and winter season at Ilkwang Bay (Kang *et al.*, 2008). In our study, *Dictyopteris prolifera*, *Sargassum horneri*, *Prionitis cornea* and *Phycodrys fimbriata* were dominant species of biomass during the survey period. Thus, this study sites may result from dominant seaweeds with biomass in brown and red algae and coarsely branched group algae. Sohn (1987) reported that sheet and filamentous form marine algae are common at shallow and high turbid coastal areas, and coarsely branched and thick leathery form are dominant at off shore coastal areas in Korea. In this study, coarsely branched and thick leathery form marine algae were the major group in species number and biomass throughout the survey period. The dominant of coarsely branched form species could relate to the marine environmental condition of this study sites such as off shore coastal areas according to the Sohn (1987).

Michanek (1979) divided the temperate region into cold and warm temperate and explained that the cold temperate region showed a strong seasonality and highest developed kelp such as Laminariales. He mentioned that the east coast of Korea was included to this region (Chung *et al.*, 1991). Boo and Lee (1986) studied seasonal periodicity of algal community, using R/P ratio as a function for monthly change of the flora at the rocky shore. Distribution of marine algae was influenced by environmental condition such as the temperate of seawater (Druehl, 1981). Thus, in order to characterize the flora, R/P, C/P and (R+C)/P ratios were applied by many phycologists (Feldmann, 1937; Cheney, 1977; Segawa, 1956). Boo and Lee (1986) mentioned that the ratios were varied from 1.44 to 3.10 according to the months. Among these three ratios, R/P, C/P and (R+C)/P ratio calculated 2.79, 0.43 and 3.21, respectively (Table 5). These ratios very similar compare with previous study and this survey results. As a result, the area represented a mixed flora of the cold and warm temperate regions.

Factor such as temperature and daylength have been shown to influence reproduction in temperate seaweed species (Dring, 1982), and other factors such as salinity, substratum and wave action are also primarily important in determining local distribution and abundance of communities (Dawes, 1981; Chung *et al.*, 1991). On the characteristics of algal vegetation, Kang *et al.* (2008) reported that the brown algae played the role in change of algal vegetation through their biomass and substratum was an important ecological factor at Ilkwang Bay.

In the present study it was found that algal species and substratum condition became a main factor determining the cluster analysis grouping. It is recognized that these results are caused by the two major floral groups at position due to number of species and substratum in survey sites.

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