The West Mediterranean BioOptics Cruise Series

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A series of three cruises were conducted in the western Mediterranean Sea during springs of 2012, 2013, and 2014. Hydrological and bio-optical data were taken with the broad aim of characterizing the basin phytoplankton distribution. The 2013 cruise was mainly coastal, whereas the other two were more oriented towards the open ocean sampling. Standard CTD casts with associated water sampling were performed in correspondence of all radiometric measurements. HPLC-derived chlorophyll and associated pigments were extracted at discrete depths. This is a preliminary analysis of the data collected during these cruises. Despite the limited size of the basin, the three cruises experienced very different bio-optical conditions.

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