

# AA.H3P BALTIC PHOTIC MUDDY SEDIMENT CHARACTERIZED BY INFAUNAL INSECT LARVAE

## AUTHOR

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## TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic photic bottoms with at least 90 % coverage of muddy sediment. The sediment must contain at least 20 % of mud, silt or clay (grain size less than 63 µm). No macrovegetation or epibenthic macrofauna. Biomass of infaunal insect larvae dominates in the group infaunal bivalves/polychaetes/crustaceans/echinoderms/insect larvae.

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is muddy sediment. Appears in all energy exposure classes.

## CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Chironomidae

## QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna.

## GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

Whole Baltic Sea

## ANTHROPOGENIC THREATS

Eutrophication, contaminants

## CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

**HELCOM 1998:**

2.7 Muddy bottoms

2.7.2 Sublittoral photic zone

2.7.2.1 With little or no macrophyte vegetation

**EUNIS 2012:**

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.3 Sublittoral mud

A5.31 Sublittoral mud in low or reduced salinity

A5.311 Baltic brackish water sublittoral muddy biocenoses influenced by varying salinity

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/2585>