

# AB.H3L5 BALTIC APHOTIC MUDDY SEDIMENT DOMINATED BY *ASTARTE SPP.*

## AUTHOR

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## TEXTUAL DESCRIPTION

Baltic aphotic zone 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). Biomass of infaunal bivalves dominates and is highest in the group that includes infaunal bivalves/polychaetes/crustaceans/echinoderms/insect larvae. Out of the infaunal bivalves, *Astarte* spp. constitutes at least 50 % of the biomass.

## PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Substrate is muddy sediment. Appears in low to moderate energy exposure classes.

## CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

*Astarte* spp.

## QUALITY DESCRIPTORS

Diversity, abundance and biomass of fauna

## ANTHROPOGENIC THREATS

Eutrophication

## CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS

### HELCOM 1998:

2.7 Muddy bottoms

2.7.1 Aphotic zone

### EUNIS 2012:

A5 Sublittoral sediment

A5.3 Sublittoral mud

A5.37 Deep circalittoral mud

A5.378 Baltic muddy bottoms of the aphotic zone

<http://eunis.eea.europa.eu/habitats/2588>