

BRYOZOAN PHANEROZOIC SPECIES DIVERSITY

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Phanerozoic bryozoan species diversity parallels patterns of general Phanerozoic diversity curves for higher taxonomic levels published by Raup, Sepkoski, Valentine and others. Diversity peaks are visually correlated with the development of extensive epicontinental seas. Diversity levels in the Paleozoic are not as high as those reached in the late Cretaceous and Tertiary and no system, epoch, or stage reaches the known diversity in modern seas. Only a small fraction of the modern fauna appears to be represented in the fossil record.