

**S1 Table. Taxa recorded and their mean percent coverage (Co), distribution (Di) along the horizontal axis, and position on the walls (Po) of the surveyed caves.** OUT, outer zone; 0-30, distance from entrance in meters; C, cave ceiling; L, left wall; R, right wall. Data on Porifera are according to [36].

Taxa	Fara cave			Agios Vasilios cave		
	Co (%)	Di	Po	Co (%)	Di	Po
<b>Macroalgae</b>						
<i>Codium bursa</i> (Olivi) C.Agardh	0.2	OUT	R			
Encrusting Calcareous Rhodophyta	16.6	OUT-5	C, L, R	14.3	0-15	C, L, R
<i>Flabellia petiolata</i> (Turra) Nizamuddin	<0.1	OUT	L			
<i>Palmophyllum crassum</i> (Naccari) Rabenhorst	0.6	OUT-5	C, L, R	0.6	0-10	C, L, R
Turf-forming algae	1.5	OUT-5	C, L, R	1.1	0-5	C, L, R
<b>Foraminifera</b>						
<i>Miniacina miniacea</i> (Pallas, 1766)	<0.1	5-15	C, L, R	<0.1	0-15	C, L, R
<b>Porifera</b>						
<i>Aaptos aaptos</i> (Schmidt, 1864)	<0.1	5	C			
<i>Acanthella acuta</i> Schmidt, 1862	0.4	OUT-10	L, R			
<i>Agelas oroides</i> (Schmidt, 1864)	3.4	OUT-20	C, L, R	0.2	0-10	C, L
<i>Aplysilla rosea</i> (Barrois, 1876)	<0.1	OUT-5	C, L	<0.1	0-15	C, L, R
<i>Aplysina aerophoba</i> Nardo, 1833				1.7	0-15	C, L, R
<i>Axinella camabina</i> (Esper, 1794)	0.1	5-10	L			
<i>Axinella damicornis</i> (Esper, 1794)	0.4	OUT-10	L, R	0.2	0-15	C, L, R
<i>Axinella verrucosa</i> (Esper, 1794)	0.2	5-10	L			
<i>Clathrina</i> sp.	0.1	0-30	C, L, R	<0.1	15	C, L
<i>Cliona celata</i> Grant, 1826	<0.1	OUT-10	C, L, R			
<i>Cliona schmidtii</i> (Ridley, 1881)	<0.1	OUT-5	C, L, R	<0.1	0	C
<i>Cliona viridis</i> (Schmidt, 1862)	0.1	OUT-0	C, L			
<i>Crella</i> sp.				0.1	15	R
<i>Dendroxea lenis</i> (Topsent, 1892)	4.3	0-30	C, L, R	3.2	0-15	C, L, R
<i>Dictyonella incisa</i> (Schmidt, 1880)	0.1	OUT-10	L, R	<0.1	15	R
<i>Diplastrella bistellata</i> (Schmidt, 1862)	1.4	15-30	C, L, R			
<i>Dysidea fragilis</i> (Montagu, 1814)	0.1	10	L			
<i>Eurypon clavatum</i> (Bowerbank, 1866)	<0.1	15	C	<0.1	15-20	C
<i>Eurypon</i> sp.	0.4	10-30	C, L, R	1.4	0-20	C, L, R
<i>Fasciospongia cavernosa</i> (Schmidt, 1862)	<0.1	OUT-5	C, L	<0.1	5	C
<i>Haliclona (Halichoelona) fulva</i> (Topsent, 1893)	0.1	15-30	L, R	<0.1	0	L
<i>Haliclona (Soestella) mucosa</i> (Griessinger, 1971)	0.4	OUT-30	C, L, R	0.2	0-10	C, L, R
<i>Haliclona</i> sp.	<0.1	0	R			
<i>Hexadella pruvoti</i> Topsent, 1896	0.1	OUT-30	C, L, R	1.7	0-15	C, L, R
<i>Hexadella racovitzae</i> Topsent, 1896	<0.1	10	C, R	2.7	0-15	C, L, R
<i>Hexadella</i> sp.	0.1	10-25	C, L, R	<0.1	15	L
<i>Ircinia oros</i> (Schmidt, 1864)	0.1	0	L			
<i>Ircinia paucifilamentosa</i> Vacelet, 1961	0.6	15-25	L, R	0.2	0-10	C, L
<i>Ircinia variabilis</i> (Schmidt, 1862)	0.2	10	R			
<i>Jaspis johnstonii</i> (Schmidt, 1862)	0.3	5-25	L, R			
<i>Myrmekioderma spelaum</i> (Pulitzer-Finali, 1983)	<0.1	30	C			
<i>Oscarella balibalo</i> Pérez et al., 2011	<0.1	0-5	C, R	0.7	0-5	L, R
<i>Oscarella microlobata</i> Muricy et al., 1996	0.2	20-30	C, L, R	<0.1	15	C
<i>Oscarella tuberculata</i> (Schmidt, 1868)	<0.1	10	R	1.6	0-15	C, L, R
<i>Penares euastrum</i> (Schmidt, 1868)	0.6	5-15	L, R	0.8	0-15	C, L, R
<i>Petrosia (Petrosia) ficiformis</i> (Poiret, 1789)	0.3	OUT-15	C, L, R			
<i>Phorbas tenacior</i> (Topsent, 1925)	3.3	OUT-15	C, L, R	1.1	0-5	C, L, R

Taxa	Fara cave			Agios Vasilios cave		
	Co (%)	Di	Po	Co (%)	Di	Po
<i>Plakina bowerbanki</i> (Sarà, 1960)	0.4	20–30	C, L, R	3.6	0–20	C, L, R
<i>Plakina</i> sp.	0.2	0–30	C, L, R			
<i>Plakina trilopha</i> Schulze, 1880				0.6	0–20	C, L, R
<i>Pleraplysilla spinifera</i> (Schulze, 1879)	0.1	OUT–15	C, L, R	0.4	0–15	C, L, R
<i>Pseudocortidium jarrei</i> Boury-Esnault et al., 1995	0.1	0–10	C, R	<0.1	0–5	L, R
<i>Raspaciona aculeata</i> (Johnston, 1842)	0.2	5–15	C, L, R	0.7	0–15	C, L, R
<i>Sarcotragus foetidus</i> Schmidt, 1862				<0.1	5	C
<i>Spirastrella cunctatrix</i> Schmidt, 1868	3.8	OUT–15	C, L, R	3.7	0–10	C, L, R
<i>Spongia</i> ( <i>Spongia</i> ) <i>virgultosa</i> (Schmidt, 1868)	<0.1	OUT–0	R			
<i>Terpios gelatinosa</i> (Bowerbank, 1866)	<0.1	OUT–15	L, R	<0.1	0–15	R
<i>Tethya aurantium</i> (Pallas, 1766)	0.1	0	R			
<i>Thymosiopsis cuticulatus</i> Vacelet & Perez, 1998	0.3	5–15	L, R			
<i>Timea unistellata</i> (Topsent, 1892)	<0.1	15	R	1.6	0–20	C, L, R
<b>Cnidaria</b>						
Hydrozoa sp.	<0.1	OUT–5	C	<0.1	0–5	C
<i>Caryophyllia</i> ( <i>Caryophyllia</i> ) <i>inornata</i> (Duncan, 1878)	<0.1	OUT–20	C, L, R	<0.1	0–20	C, L, R
<i>Ceratotrochus magnaghii</i> Cecchini, 1914	<0.1	25	C	<0.1	20	C
<i>Hoplania durotrix</i> Gosse, 1860	0.1	OUT–30	C, L, R	1.3	0–20	C, L, R
<i>Leptosammia pruvoti</i> Lacaze-Duthiers, 1897	0.1	OUT–30	C, L, R	1.1	0–20	C, L, R
<i>Madracis pharensis</i> (Heller, 1868)	7.2	OUT–30	C, L, R	5.2	0–10	C, L, R
<i>Paracyathus pulchellus</i> (Philippi, 1842)	<0.1	10–30	C, L	<0.1	15–20	C, L
<i>Phyllangia americana mouchezii</i> (Lacaze-Duthiers, 1897)	<0.1	5–10	C, R			
<b>Polychaeta</b>						
Serpulidae	5.5	OUT–30	C, L, R	5.3	0–20	C, L, R
<b>Mollusca</b>						
<i>Bryopa melitensis</i> (Broderip, 1834)	<0.1	5	L	<0.1	0	C
<i>Rocellaria dubia</i> (Pennant, 1777)	<0.1	OUT	C	<0.1	0–5	C, L
<i>Lithophaga lithophaga</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)				<0.1	0–15	C
Ostreoida sp.	<0.1	5	R	<0.1	10	C
Vermetidae				<0.1	0–15	C, R
<b>Brachiopoda</b>						
<i>Novocrania anomala</i> (Müller, 1776)	0.1	10–30	C, L, R	<0.1	20	C
Other Brachiopoda	0.1	0–30	C, L, R	<0.1	0–20	C, L
<b>Bryozoa</b>						
<i>Adeonella pallasii</i> (Heller, 1867)	0.1	0–5	R	<0.1	0–10	C, R
Encrusting Bryozoa	2.4	0–30	C, L, R	1.3	0–20	C, L, R
<i>Fron dipora verrucosa</i> (Lamouroux, 1821)				<0.1	0–10	R
Non-calcified Bryozoa	<0.1	OUT–10	C, R	0.1	0–5	C, L, R
<i>Rhynchozoon neapolitanum</i> Gautier, 1962	0.1	OUT–5	C, L, R	0.1	0–10	C, L, R
<i>Schizomavella</i> sp.				<0.1	0	R
<i>Reteporella</i> sp.				<0.1	0	R
<i>Turbicellepora coronopus</i> (Wood, 1844)	<0.1	0–5	L	<0.1	0–5	R
<b>Asciacea</b>						
<i>Halocynthia papillosa</i> (Linnaeus, 1767)				<0.1	0	C, L
<i>Microcosmus</i> sp.	0.1	0	R			
Asciacea sp.1				<0.1	20	C
Asciacea sp.2				0.1	0–15	C, L, R