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A multi-species microalgae bloom in Bahia de La Paz, Gulf of California, México (June 2008)

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Red tides Patches were observed in Bahía de La Paz in June 17 and 18 of 2008. According to temperature and wind data this bloom occurred under upwelling-like conditions. Examination of the red tide samples showed that the ciliate *Myrionecta rubra* and two naked dinoflagellates *Gyrodinium instriatum* and *Katodinium glaucum* as the main species responsible for this bloom Total density (microalgae and ciliate) at the sampling stations was similar on both days, varying from 4607 × 10^3 to cells L^{-1} to 4976 × 10^3 cells L^{-1} on the first day, and from 4172 × 10^3 cells L^{-1} to 5024 × 10^3 cells L^{-1} on the second day. Phytoplankton biomass (chlorophyll <I normal">a) observed during the first day of the bloom was 1.5 mg m^{-3}. Dinoflagellates and diatoms were the most numerically important phytoplankton groups. The phytoplankton community showed a high species richness, particularly heterotrophic dinoflagellates and ebridians. The ecological importance of the heterotrophic component of naked dinoflagellates and the ebriids for this bay is discussed.

Palabras clave: Specialist, Bloom, Myrionecta rubra, Gyrodinium instriatum, Katodinium glaucum, heterotrophic dinoflagellates, ebridians, silicoflagellates