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**PHENOLOGY OF A SUMMER–AUTUMN
ANNUAL SPECIES OF *DICTYOTA*
(PHAEOPHYCEAE) FROM THE CANARY
ISLANDS**

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Dictyota includes many species widely distributed in tropical and subtropical regions with fourteen species reported from the Canary Islands, where they constitute dominant elements in eulittoral and sublittoral communities. *Dictyota* species are annuals, however little is known about their life-span and phenological behaviour. This study describes the phenology of a species of *Dictyota*, whose morphological features are in disagreement with the species previously reported from the Canaries. The population grows at exposed habitats in lower eulittoral tide pools, occurring throughout the year although inconspicuously in spring. The maximum abundance was observed in summer, decreasing gradually during autumn and winter. Sporophytes outnumbered gametophytes throughout the year, especially in late summer. The maximum abundance of gametophytes was in early summer. Juvenile as well as mature thalli were observed year-round. Significant seasonal variation was observed in several habit and anatomical characters. The species is an aseasonal annual with at least three overlapping generations in which sporophytes and gametophytes are growing simultaneously. Life-span of an individual thallus seems to be up to 3 months.

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