Maturity stages of gonads and stages of egg development description for the
narwal shrimp *Plesionika narval* in the Dodecanese Islands, SE Aegean Sea

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*Plesionika narval* is a widespread species of the Pandalidae family. Shrimps were collected during six monthly experimental surveys carried out with shrimp traps in the Dodecanese area (southeastern Aegean Sea) from November 2014 to May 2015. Macroscopic examination of the first and second pairs of pleopods was used to determine the sex. Ovary maturity was macroscopically examined and four main developmental stages were defined according to their colour intensity and size; stage I: immature; II: early maturity and resting/recovery; III: late maturity and IV: full maturity. Egg-bearing females were photographed and eggs were classified into three stages of development; stage 1: eggs of recent spawning; 2: middle stage and 3: late stage. Images and descriptions of both maturity stages of gonads and stages of egg development are given in order to improve the macroscopic examination quality of the maturity data of *P. narval* for any further work. The present work was carried out in the framework of PLESIONIKA MANAGE project which is co-financed by the Greek Ministry of Rural Development and Food and the EU under the OPF 2007-2013.

**Keywords:** Pandalid shrimps, ovary stages, ovigerous female eggs, Eastern Mediterranean