



Studies on Zooplankton Diversity in Diwanshah Lake, Maharashtra, India with reference to its fishery status and conservation

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Abstract

The present work focuses on availability and seasonal variation on zooplanktons diversity in Diwanshah Lake, Bhiwandi. Studying zooplankton, even of a specific area is an extensive, complicated & laborious work due to environmental, physical, geographic and chemical variation involving ecological factors. Zooplanktons encompass the microscopic animal species that freely float in aquatic ecosystem. They encompass a vast variety of taxonomic groups; of which the members belonging to Protozoa, Rotifera, Cladocera and Copepoda are most common and often dominate the entire consumer communities. They have many remarkable characteristics and are often armored with appendages such as spines, rostrum etc. which prevent their predation by next higher organisms. They are highly mobile and this ability of movement not only provide them an effective defense benefit but also enable them to actively search and feed upon the phytoplankton and establish the aquatic food chain. Hence, studying the members of zooplankton communities is important for their role in tropic dynamics and energy transfer in the aquatic ecosystem. They serve as a food for fishes in the freshwater ponds, lakes, tanks and other aquatic reservoirs and play a significant role in the fish production.

Key words: Diwanshah pond, Zooplankton diversity, cladocerans, Rotifer, Copepods, Aquatic food chain.

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