



Plankton Diversity and Density in Ghuma Lake, Rural Area of Ahmedabad

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ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out on Ghuma lake of Ghuma village. Ghuma village is situated in Daskroi taluka of Ahmedabad district, Gujarat State. Ghuma is 16.4 km far from its district place Ahmedabad. Nearest town is Sanand and is 12.8 k.m. far from Ghuma village. Current population of Ghuma village is about 15000. Ghuma lake is situated on western side of the village.

The plankton were collected, counted and were identified by using the method suggested by APHA (1995) Prescott (1970) and FRESH WATER BIOLOGY (W. T. Edmondson-1959). The plankton were counted by using Sedgwick Rafter counting cell. Different class such as cyanophyceae, chlorophyceae, bacillariophyceae, euglenophyceae, ciliata, cledocera, copepod and specimens from phylum rotifera were identified during the study. Among all these classes the listed phytoplankton such as *Oscillatoria* sp., *Tetraedron* sp., *Navicula* sp., *Nitzschia* sp., *Euglena* sp. and zooplankton such as *Ceriodaphnia* sp., *Cyclops* sp., *Tropocyclops* sp., *Brachionus* sp. and *Platyas* sp. were recorded as a dominant genera in Ghuma lake. The study was carried out monthly but was tabulated seasonally by using statistical method.

KEYWORDS: Ghuma Lake, Phytoplankton and Zooplankton

INTRODUCTION:

Ahmedabad is the largest city of the Gujarat state and is the 7th largest city of India. Today the city becomes the commercial capital of the Gujarat state. It has its own indefinable charm, combining many traditional elements and the latest international blend. The present city is divided by the river Sabarmati into two parts, eastern and western Ahmedabad. The Ghuma Lake of Ghuma village is located in the outskirts of the western part of Ahmedabad city. The Ghuma Lake is a natural lake and is located on the western part of Ghuma village. The sewage waste of Ghuma village is directly discharge into this Lake. The People of village also use this Lake to wash their cloths, take bath, sanitation, etc. The cattle of the villagers also take bath in this Lake. The Lake covers an area of 84479 m². Peripheral area of the lake is 466.22 m. and depth is 21 feet. Its exact geographical location is 23° 01' 57.32" N Latitude and 72° 26' 56.15" E Longitude.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

The standard method suggested in APHA used for assessing water quality includes collection, counting and identification of phytoplankton and zooplankton. Plankton net number 25 of mesh size 20 µm was used for collecting samples. 50 liters of water was measured in a graduated bucket and filtered through the net and concentrated in a 100 ml bottle. Samples were collected as close to the water surface as possible in the morning hours. The samples were labeled with the date, time, and study area i.e. name of Lake and the volume measured and pasted on the containers. Plankton is preserved by using 4% formalin. The sample was allowed to settle for 24-48 hours and was further concentrated to approximately 30 ml by decanting. Sedgwick Rafter counting cell is used to count the plankton. Sedgwick Rafter cell is approximately 50 mm long, 20 mm wide and 1 mm deep. The total volume of the cell is 1 ml. A binocular compound microscope is used to count the plankton with different eyepieces such as 10X and 40X. The microscope is calibrated using an ocular micrometer. Formula to convert unit/ml of plankton into unit/liter is

$$n = \frac{(a \times 1000) c}{l}$$

Where,

n = Number of plankton / liter of water.

a = Average no. of plankton in one small counting chamber of S-R cell.

c = ml of plankton concentrate.

l = Volume of original water filtered in liter.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Plankton has long been used as indicator of water quality. Because of their short life spans, plankton responds quickly to environmental changes. They flourish both in highly eutrophic waters while a few others are very sensitive to organic and/or chemical wastes. Some species have also been associated with noxious blooms sometimes creating offensive tastes and odours or toxic conditions. Because of their short life

cycles plankton respond quickly to environmental changes, and hence the standing crop and species composition indicate the quality of the water mass in which they are found.

In the present study 4 different genera of cyanophyceae class were recorded from the Lake. The blue green algae recorded in Ghuma Lakes are *Merismopedia* sp., *Nostoc* sp., *Oscillatoria* sp., and *Spirulina* sp. the minimum algal units were recorded during summer season where as maximum was recorded during winter season.

In Ghuma Lake 7 different genera of chlorophyceae class were recorded. In Ghuma Lake the algae recorded are *Closterium* sp., *Closteriopsis* sp., *Coelastrum* sp., *Mugeotia* sp., *Spirogyra* sp., *Tetraedron* sp., *Scenedesmus* sp., the minimum value was recorded during summer season whereas maximum was recorded during monsoon season.

From the Ghuma Lake 7 different genera of bacillariophyceae were recorded. In Ghuma Lake the diatom for bacillariophyceae class recorded are *Cyclotella* sp., *Cymbella* sp., *Gomphonema* sp., *Gyrosigma* sp., *Navicula* sp., and *Nitzschia* sp., The minimum unit of diatom were recorded during winter season whereas maximum unit of diatoms were recorded during summer season.

In the Lake 2 genera of euglenoids were recorded. The euglenoid recorded in the lake are *Euglena* sp. and *Phacus* sp. In Ghuma Lake the minimum units of euglenoids were recorded during summer season and maximum unit of euglenoids were recorded during summer season.

In Ghuma lake 2 genera of class ciliata were recorded. The ciliate recorded in the lake are *Pleuronema* sp. and *Strombidium* sp. and 2 genera of cladocera are *Alona* sp. and *Ceriodaphnia* sp. In Ghuma lake 5 genera of copepod, *Cyclops* sp., *Diacyclops* sp., *Diaptomus* sp., *Eucyclops* sp., and *Tropocyclops* sp. were recorded. The minimum number of copepods were recorded during summer season whereas maximum unit of copepods were recorded during winter season.

In the lake 2 genera of phylum rotifer *Brachionus* sp. and *Platyas* sp. were recorded. The minimum number of rotifera were recorded during summer season whereas maximum unit of rotifer were recorded during monsoon season. Density of phytoplankton and zooplankton were mention in table -1 and 2. Season wise phytoplankton and zooplankton count were mention in fig. 1 and 2.

CONCLUSIONS:

Therefore from the above study it is concluded that the total phytoplankton count/ml. is more in summer season and bacillariophyceae is dominant while total zooplankton count/ml. is more in winter season. Rotifer is dominant in Ghuma Lake. The total plankton count/ml. is minimum in monsoon season **256/ml** and maximum in summer season **360/ml**. (Table-1). This was proved by the above result as the

amounts of cyanophyceae algae and rotifera were found in Ghuma lake, which are indicator of pollution.

TABLE 1: SEASONAL VARIATION OF PHYTOPLANKTON IN GHUMA LAKE

PHYTOPLANKTON		SAMPLING SEASON		
CLASS	GENERA	MONSOON MEAN	WINTER MEAN	SUMMER MEAN
CHLOROPHYCEAE				
	<i>Closteriopsis Sp.</i>	10	0	0
	<i>Coelastrum Sp.</i>	8	0	0
	<i>Mugeotia sp.</i>	0	14	8
	<i>Pandorina Sp.</i>	4	0	0
	<i>Scenedesmus Sp.</i>	0	0	2
	<i>Spirogyra sp.</i>	0	12	0
	<i>Tetraedron Sp.</i>	6	0	8
Total		28	26	18
CYANOPHYCEAE				
	<i>Merismopedia Sp.</i>	4	0	0
	<i>Nostoc Sp.</i>	0	4	0
	<i>Oscillatoria Sp.</i>	14	24	0
	<i>Spirulina Sp.</i>	6	0	0
Total		24	28	00
BACILLARIOPHYCEAE				
	<i>Amphiplrura sp.</i>	2	0	0
	<i>Cyclotella sp.</i>	2	0	2
	<i>Cymbella Sp.</i>	4	0	4
	<i>Gomphonema Sp.</i>	0	8	4
	<i>Gyrosigma sp.</i>	0	0	24
	<i>Navicula Sp.</i>	58	16	96
	<i>Nitzschia sp.</i>	22	20	78
Total		88	44	208
EUGLENOPHYCEAE				
	<i>Euglena acus</i>	4	2	2
	<i>Euglena gracilis</i>	0	10	2
	<i>Euglena Sp.</i>	12	42	66
	<i>Phacus sp.</i>	2	2	00
Total		18	56	70
TOTAL PHYTOPLANKTON COUNT/ML		158	154	296
TOTAL PHYTOPLANKTON COUNT/L		94800	92400	177600

TABLE 2: SEASONAL VARIATION OF ZOOPLANKTON IN GHUMA LAKE

ZOOPLANKTON		SAMPLING SEASON		
GROUP	GENERA	MONSOON MEAN	WINTER MEAN	SUMMER MEAN
CILIATA				
	<i>Pleuronema sp.</i>	2	6	0
	<i>Strombidium Sp.</i>	2	0	0
Total		04	06	00
CLADOCERA				
	<i>Alona sp.</i>	0	0	6
	<i>Ceriodaphnia sp.</i>	16	28	32
Total		16	28	38

COPEPODA				
	<i>Cyclops sp.</i>	10	10	2
	<i>Dicyclops sp.</i>	0	10	0
	<i>Diaptomus sp.</i>	2	12	0
	<i>Eucyclops sp.</i>	4	8	0
	<i>Tropocyclops sp.</i>	4	12	6
Total		20	52	08
ROTIFERA				
	<i>Brachionus sp.</i>	56	4	14
	<i>Platyias sp.</i>	2	18	4
Total		58	22	18
TOTAL ZOOPLANKTON COUNT / ML		98	108	64
TOTAL ZOOPLANKTON COUNT / L		58800	648000	38400
TOTAL PLANKTON COUNT / ML		256	262	360
TOTAL PLANKTON COUNT / L		153600	157200	216000

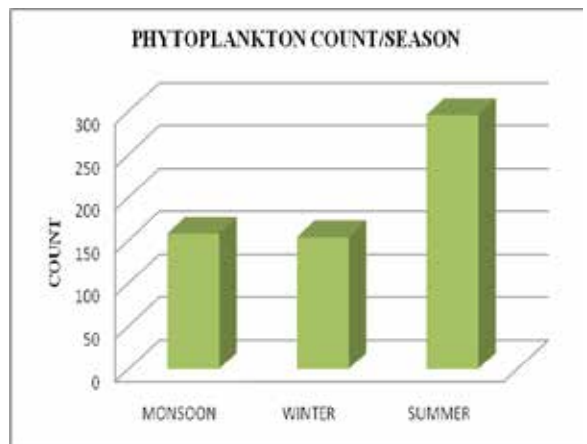


Fig. No.1 Season wise phytoplankton count

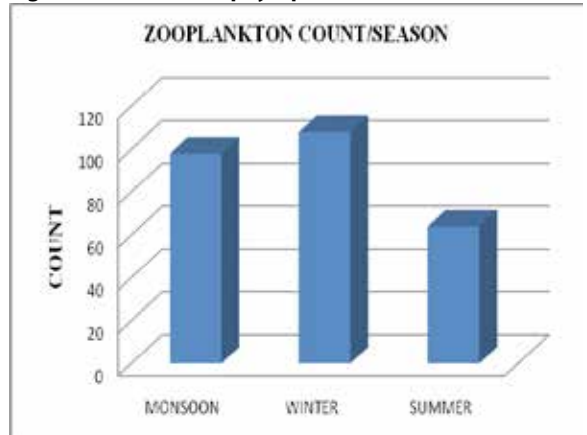


Fig. No2 Season wise zooplankton count

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