

Correlation between the Diversity Manifestation and Phytoplankton Productivity in Pechiparai Reservoir, Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu, India

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ABSTRACT

Correlation between the diversity and primary production index of phytoplanktons of Pechiparai Reservoir in Kanyakumari District, TN, India was assessed from January to December 2004. Average phytoplankton primary production varied significantly during the period of study. Maximum diversity and primary productivity were recorded in the months of Jan to Mar. The inflow of water during the monsoon into the reservoir was the prime factor that influenced input of the nutrients and appeared to enhance the primary production during this period. Shannon – Weiner diversity index varied between 1.242 and 1.897 during the period of study. Likewise, Simpson index varied from 0.822 to 0.898 and evenness from 446 to 956. The value of annual average of phytoplankton biomass was 319 Nos⁻¹. The value of annual average of gross primary production and net primary production were 2719 mg C/m³/d and 1610 mg C/m³/d respectively.

KEYWORDS

Pechiparai Reservoir; Primary Production; Phytoplankton Diversity; Shannon – Weiner diversity index; Simpson index.

INTRODUCTION

A number of factors have been attributed to influence the diversity of fauna and flora in any aquatic ecosystem. An assessment of biological productivity of any aquatic ecosystem is essential to ascertain whether the productivity is sufficient enough to support the standing stock of commercially important fishes. Topical reservoirs are generally characterized by rich population of Phytoplankton (Srinivasan, 1964).

Among the factors that influence the diversity of fauna and flora of a reservoir ecosystem, phytoplankton play a pivotal role in the production of organic matter, which in turn is decided by the various environmental factors. Studies on the primary productivity in Indian lentic systems are meager (Srinivasan, 1964; Joshi et al., 1995; Sukumaran and Dhas 2001; Shrivastava, 2005). Earlier we reported the influence of spatial and temporal variations on phytoplankton community structure in Pechiparai reservoir (Jepachandramohan et al., 2009). In the present investigation correlation between the primary productivity and phytoplankton diversity in Pechiparai Reservoir in Kanyakumari District TN, India (Fig. 1) was assessed to provide the inter relationship between the primary productivity and phytoplankton diversity of reservoirs in South India.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The investigation was carried out over a period of twelve months Jan 2004 to Dec 2004. Phytoplankton samples were collected by filtering the water through bolting silk cloth (No. 25) and preserved in 4% formalin. The systematic identification of the phytoplankton was done adopting the standard keys of Desikachary (1959) and Cramer (1984). The enumeration of phytoplankton count was carried out with the help of a haemocytometer. The species diversity indices, viz., Shannon – Weiner diversity index (H^1), Simpson index (SI) and evenness index (D) were computed. Assessment of primary productivity was done as per the procedures of Apha (1992).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The species diversity H^1 ranged from 1.242 (Sep) to 1.897 (Jan), SI from 0.614 (May) 0.898 (Jul) and J^1 from 0.646 (Apr) to 956 (Aug) as shown in Table 1. The primary productivity in the planktonic algae is maximum in the upper photic zone of the water body. Therefore, assessments of the standing crop and rate of production are important factors that determine the fishery potential (Salakar and Yearagi, 2004). The seasonal abundance of phytoplankton in Pechiparai reservoir was very high during post secondary monsoon season (Jan to Mar) than the post primary monsoon season (Aug and Sep) (Fig. 2).

The phytoplankton population was considerably low during period of high precipitation; this could be due the high turbid nature of the water in the reservoir which in turn brings about the decline in the intensity of light that pears though the water on the upper region (Sugunan, 1980). A direct relationship between monsoon flow and plankton density has been reported in Richand reservoir (Nataraj, 1976). Shannon – Weiner diversity index (H^1) and Simpson index (SI) of the reservoir increased due to varied proliferation of phytoplankton during the two post monsoon seasons. This observation is in agreement with the previous report of Sugunam (1991) for net plankton in Nagarjunasargar reservoir. Sukumaran and Karthikeyan (1999) recorded similar observations in the species diversity of peri-phyton in Markonahalli reservoir. Decline in the values of diversity indices in the southwest monsoon and northeast monsoon coincide with the decline of species index of the phytoplankton community. This observation is in accordance with that of Margalef (1963). The establishment of some species during certain months during certain months could be attributed to the prevalence of favorable environmental conditions. Evenness index j was higher in certain months apparently due to comparable distribution of various genera and the species in the habitat as affirmed Whilm and Dorris (1968).

Phytoplankton synthesis new organic carbon by the process of photosynthesis in the present study the values of gross primary productivity and net primary productivity were higher in the post monsoon seasons. Subbamma (1993) observed that the population of the phytoplankton was much higher in the summer than in other seasons. This could be due to the prolonged day length and high intensity of light during this period. Srinivasan (1964) and Jepachandramohan et al., (2009) observed similar results in Ammaravathi reservoir and in Pechiparai reservoir in the earlier studies. In the present study the maximum diversity was recorded in the post monsoon period that is in the months of Jan - Mar. This could be due to the prolonged availability of light in the post monsoon period and significantly high inflow of nutrients during the monsoon. Based on the studies it is concluded that there exists a strong correlation between the population, diversity and the productivity of the phytoplanktons.

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Table 1. Primary Productivity of Phytoplanktons in Pechiparai reservoir.

Productivity	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
D	1.6	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.45	1.2	1.0	0.82	0.83	0.85	0.87	1.3
J	0.87	0.7	0.6	0.65	0.57	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.95	0.82	0.93
H	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.57	1.25	1.58	1.64	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.8
SI	0.8	0.75	0.6	0.7	0.64	0.73	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.75	0.75	0.85

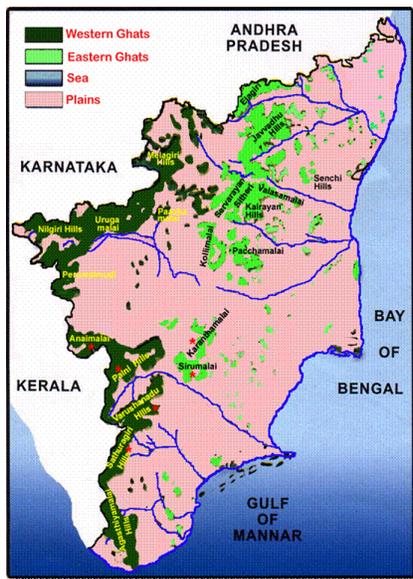


Figure 1: Western and Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu
 * Paliyar inhabited hills in southern western and Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu

Fig.1. Location of the study area (Pechiparai Reservoir).

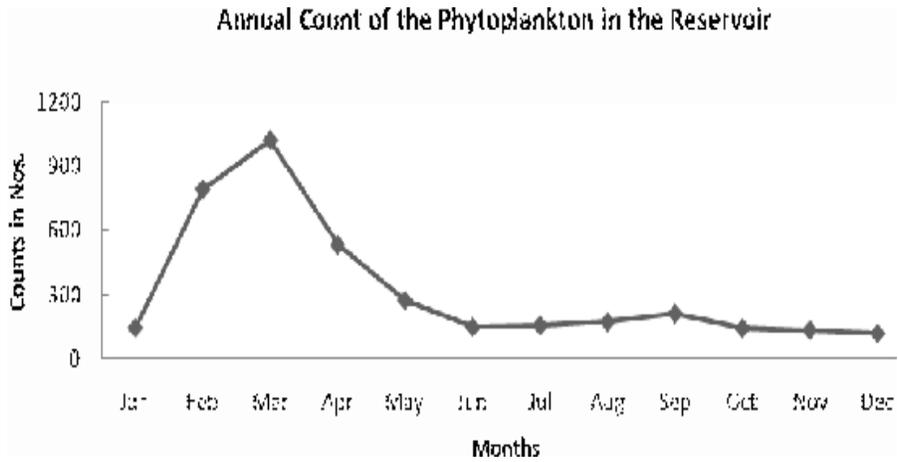


Fig. 2. Diversity of phytoplanktons in the Pechiparai reservoir.

