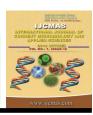


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Observations on Zooplankton Community of Nanak Sagar Reservoir, Uttarakhand, India

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Nanak Sagar, Density, Diversity, Physicochemical, Reservoir, Zooplankton

Article Info

Accepted: 04 September 2018 Available Online: 10 October 2018 The zooplankton density and diversity along with important physico-chemical parameters were studied on forth nightly basis from August, 2016 to March, 2017 in Nanak Sagar reservoir, Uttarakhand. Three sampling sites i.e. (A1, A2 & A3) were selected for regular sampling of zooplankton and water. The range of physico-chemical parameters i.e. water temperature, dissolved oxygen, free CO₂, transparency, pH, conductivity, total dissolved solid, total alkalinity, nitrate and phosphate during the study period were 16.9 to 34 °C, 3.2 to 9.6 mgL⁻¹, 0 to 6 mgL⁻¹, 67.9 to 194 cm, 7 to 8.7, 118 to 336 μS cm⁻¹, 91.7 to 156 mg L⁻¹, 60 to 140 mgL⁻¹, 0.22 to 0.64 mgL⁻¹ and 0.043 to 0.2 mgL⁻¹ respectively. The zooplankton mainly consisted of Rotifera, Copepoda, Cladocera, Ostracoda and Diptera. Out of 24 genera of zooplankton, 10 were from rotifera, 6 from cladocera, 5 from copepoda, 2 from ostracoda and 1 belonged to diptera group. The average density of zooplankton was 6250 individuals L⁻¹, 4125 individuals L⁻¹ and 4000 individuals L⁻¹ at site A1, A2 and A3 respectively. The diversity of zooplankton showed their own maximum and minimum abundance during a particular season. The water quality parameters of Nanak Sagar reservoir reveal that the environmental conditions are good from the fisheries point of view.

Introduction

Plankton forms an important component of fish food in aquatic environment and as such, the knowledge of their production and abundance is essential for successful management of fishery. Zooplankton occupies a central position between the autotrophs and other heterotrophs and is an important link in food of a fresh water ecosystem. The study of zooplankton community is important as it provides ways of predicting productivity and it

is one of the principle links in the food chain. They have been widely used in assessment of aquatic pollution because of their sensitivity to small changes in environment and short generation time.

Zooplankton community is cosmopolitan in nature and they inhabit all freshwater habitats of the world. Zooplankton diversity and density refers to variety within the community (Jalilzadeh *et al.*, 2008). Zooplankton plays an important role in freshwater ecosystem, as grazers that control algal and bacterial

populations, as a food source for higher trophic levels and in the excretion of dissolved nutrients (Pourriot and Meybeck, 1995) The zooplankton communities, very sensitive to environmental modifications, are important indicators for evaluating the ecological status of the ecosystems (Magadza, 1994). Wetzel (2001) stated that zooplankton not only form an integral part of the lentic community but also contribute significantly to the biological productivity of the fresh water ecosystem. Almost all fish rely upon zooplankton for food throughout their larval phases, and a few fish still eat zooplankton in their entire lives et al.. 2001). Monitoring of zooplankton communities is needed to allow us to predictively model the ecosystem (Deborah and Robert, 2009).

Zooplankton communities and analysis of zooplankton with diversity indices like Shannon-Wiener and Simpson diversity index, species richness, and evenness, structure and composition trends with total abundance of various zooplankton are essential to assess the water quality and aquatic health for proper management of reservoir (Dipankar Ghosh and Jayanta Kumar Biswas, 2014).

Materials and Methods

Study area

The study was carried out for a period of eight months from August 2016-March 2017 in Nanak Sagar reservoir, Uttarakhand. In the investigation, three different sampling stations *viz.* sites of the reservoir (A1, A2 & A3) were selected according to human intervention, for regular sampling of zooplankton and water samples. Site A1 is the Baoli Sahib, it is about one and a half kilometers from Gurudwara Nanakmatta Sahib. This place is also used as Boat stand and lot of people come here daily. The second site is A2 which is known as Kati pulia which is about 0.92 kilometers from site

A1 and has a steady environment. The site has a small drainage for agriculture purpose. The third site was the Dam area which is about 1.63 kilometers from site A2 and 2.5 kilometers from site A1.

Plankton collection, preservation, identification and analysis

For qualitative and quantitative estimation, of zooplankton about 100 liters of water was filtered through plankton net from the three experimental sites, (APHA, 2012). The samples were collected fortnightly in sampling bottle of 10/20 ml capacity and were preserved in formol-alcohol solution (5% formalin and 70% alcohol in equal parts) for quantitative and qualitative analyses. The bottles were labelled with date and sampling site.

The water samples were collected fortnightly from all the sampling sites between 9.00 to 11.0 AM for analyses of water quality parameters. Water temperature, transparency, dissolved oxygen; free CO₂, pH, conductivity and total dissolved solids (TDS) were measured at the sampling site. For analyses of other hydro biological parameters (total alkalinity, NO₃-N and PO₄-P) water samples were brought to the laboratory.

Identification of zooplankton was done using 10x and 40x objective lenses of compound microscope (Labomed). Standard reference books *viz*. Edmondson (1959), Needham and Needham (1962), Pennak (1978) and Tonapi (1980) were consulted for identification of zooplankton.

For quantitative analysis of zooplankton, 1 ml subsample was taken in Sedgwick Rafter counting cell with the help of dropper and zooplankton were counted under compound microscope. A minimum of three sub samples were counted for statistical validity. The total

number of zooplankton in each sample was multiplied with dilution factor and results were expressed as individuals L⁻¹ (APHA, 2012).

No. of organisms counted Number of individuals
$$L^{-1} = ------$$

No. of replicates taken

Biodiversity of zooplankton in the reservoir

Simpsons Index of diversity (D)

This index accounts for the species richness (the number of species) and the proportion of each species (Pi). Simpsons index gives a better idea for which species is most abundant in the environment.

Calculation of the Simpsons Index of Diversity

$$D = \Sigma (Pi)^2$$

Number of individuals of a particular species
Pi = ----Total number of individuals (organisms)

Shannon-Wiener diversity index (H)

Similar to the Simpson's index, this measurement takes into account species richness and proportion of each species. The Shannon Index is used to compare diversity between habitat samples. The Shannon-Wiener Index (H) has no meaning, but it is a good indicator of change when used to compare two different habitats (communities) or one habitat (community) at different times.

Similar to the Simpson index, the first step is to calculate Pi for each species. This number is then multiplied by the log of the number. Formulae to calculate Shannon-Wiener diversity index.

$$H = -2 \text{P1 in}(\text{p1})$$

Results and Discussion

In this study zooplankton mainly consisted of Rotifera, Copepoda, Cladocera, Ostracoda and Diptera, Among all Rotifera was the most dominant group throughout the study.

A total of 24 species were recorded during the study period, 10 were from Rotifera, 6 from Cladocera, 5 from Copepoda, 2 from Ostracoda and 1 belonged to Diptera group. Rotifera group mainly consisted of Filinia Keratella sp., **Brachionus** longiseta, anguilaris, Lepadella sp., Ploesoma sp., Asplanchna sp., Ascomphora sp., Philodina sp., Lecane sp. and Notholca sp.. Copepoda consisted of Diaptomus sp., Cyclops sp., Mesocyclops sp., Eucyclops agilis Parastenocaris starreti. Cladocerans comprises of Bosminopsis deitersi, Alona, Bosmina longirostris, Chydorus sp., Moina sp., Kurzia latissima.

Ostracoda consisted of *Stenocypris longicomosa* and *Eucypris fascatus* species and in Diptera *Chaoborus* was recorded during the study period from all the sites of the reservoir (Fig. 1–5 and Table 1).

Rotifera

Rotifers play a vital role in the trophic tiers of freshwater impoundments and serve as living capsule of nutrition (Suresh Kumar et al., 1999). In the present study they dominated with 10 species as compared to other groups of zooplankton. Taxonomic dominance has been reported in several water bodies (Neves al., 2003; Kudari et al., Kanagasabhapati and Rajan, 2010). Segers, 2003 highlighted the dominance of rotifer population in Dekhu reservoir, Aurangabad which was due to its preference for warm waters.

Copepoda

Freshwater copepods constitute one of the major zooplankton communities occurring in all types of water bodies. They serve as food to several fishes and play a major role in ecological pyramids. In the present study, 5 species were recorded. Abundance copepods in summer and winter is due to high supporting higher number Cyclopoids, thus suggesting their preponderance in higher trophic state of water. Similar observations were made by Somani and Pejavar (2004) in Masunda Lake.

Cladocera

Cladocerans are the most useful and nutritive group of crustaceans for higher members of fishes in the food chain. In the present study, a total of 6 species were recorded.

Abundance has also been earlier reported in monsoon season and lower in summer by Pawar and Pulle (2005) in Pethwadaj dam of Nanded district.

Ostracoda

Ostracods represented very low diversity and population density as compared to other groups of zooplankton. In the present study, 2 species of ostracods were recorded. Similar result has also been observed by Sukand and Patil (2004) in Fort Lake of Belgaum and Kedar *et al.*, (2008) in Rishi freshwater lake of

Washim district. Martin Gross *et al.*, (2015) documented five ostracod species and their distribution in ten similar-sized lakes and reservoirs in Bolu, Turkey.

Diptera

In the present study, 1 species of diptera was recorded which include *Chaoborus*. One of the most important invertebrate predators in freshwater lakes is the larva of the Dipteran *Chaoborus*. These larvae occur in many freshwater habitats, from temporary ponds to large lakes, all over the world. They are particularly common throughout the tropics and are often a major component of the limnetic food web in African lakes such as Lake Geinde in Uganda Lake Malawi (Irvine, 1997) Lake Chad (Saint-Jean, 1983) or small Opi Lake in Nigeria (Hare & Carter, 1987).S

Among all the zooplankton, rotifer has maximum diversity and population density in all the seasons. The dominance of rotifers in the reservoir was due to the continuous supply of food material which in turn indicates the eutrophic nature of the lake (Sukand and Patil, 2004) and that of Sona Dighi reservoir (Naz and Najia, 2008). Average number of Copepods were noticed during monsoon and winter, but were too less in summer season. As compared to Rotifera and Copepoda, population density of Cladocera, Ostracod and Diptera was very low in all the seasons and they did not also show remarkable seasonal fluctuation.

Table.1 Diversity indices of zooplankton at different sites of Nanak Sagar reservoir

Diversity Indices	Site A1	Site A2	Site A3
Shannon-Wiener index of diversity (H)	3.14	3.32	3.12
Simpson index of diversity (D)	0.32	0.30	0.32

D= Simpson index of diversity

H= Shannon-Weiner index of diversity

Fig.1 Satellite view of Nanak Sagar reservoir showing all three sites (A1, A2 and A3)



Fig.2 Monthly percent variation of zooplankton at site A1 in Nanak Sagar reservoir

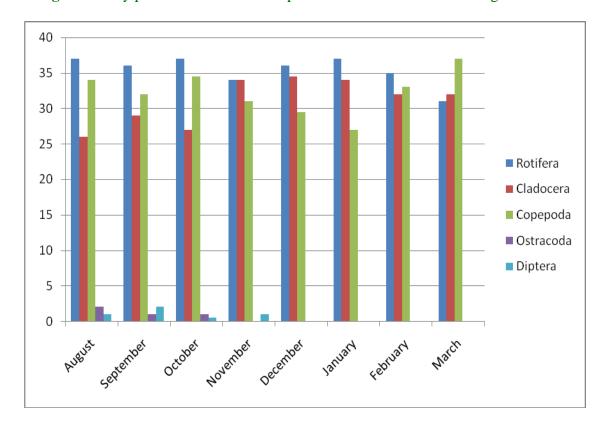


Fig.3 Monthly percent variation in of zooplankton at site A2 in Nanak Sagar reservoir

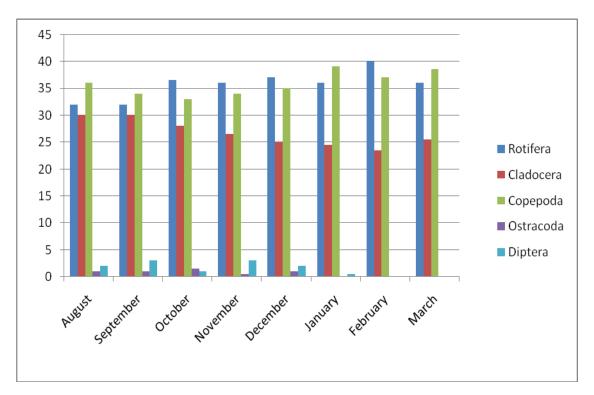
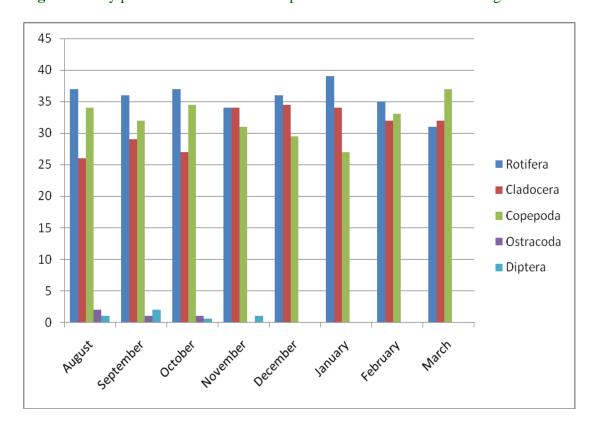


Fig.4 Monthly percent variation in of zooplankton at site A3 in Nanak Sagar reservoir



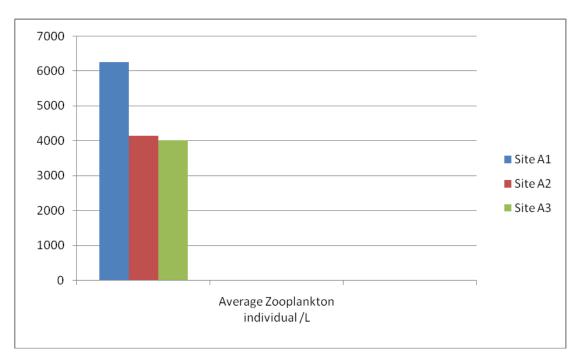


Fig.5 Average zooplankton individual L⁻¹ at site A1, A2 and A3 of the Nanak Sagar reservoir

The relative abundance of the zooplankton varied from 35 percent to 40 percent for Rotifera; from 31.5 percent to 36 percent for Copepoda; from 24 percent to 32 percent for Cladocera; from 0 percent to 2 percent for Ostracoda and from 0 percent to 2 percent for Diptera at site A1. At site A2 zooplankton group variation was from 32 percent to 40 percent among Rotifera; from 33 percent to 39 percent for Copepoda; from 23.5 percent to 30 percent for Cladocera; from 0 percent to 1.5 percent for Ostracoda and from 0 percent to 3 percent Diptera. At site A3 they varied from 31 percent to 39 percent for Rotifera; from 27 percent to 37 percent for Copepoda; from 26 percent to 34.5 percent for Cladocera; from 0 percent to 2 percent for Ostracoda and from 0 percent to 2 percent Diptera.

Rotifera was the most abundant and dominant group at station A1 with average percent of 35.37 followed by 32.25 percent of Copepods; 31.06 percent Cladocera; 0.56 percent Diptera and 0.5 percent Ostracoda. At station A2 35.81 percent of population was

dominated by copepoda followed by 35.68 percent Rotifera; 26.62 percent Cladocera; 1.43 percent was Diptera and 0.62 percent Ostracoda. At Station A3 zooplankton population was dominated by rotifers (35.60 followed by copepod (32.25 percent) percent); Cladocera (31.06 percent); 0.56 percent Diptera and 0.5 percent Ostracoda. abundance and distribution zooplankton is guided by a variety of ecological factors. The physio-chemical parameters such as temperature, light, pH and endemic constituents and the interrelationship with other organisms play an important role in determining the nature and pattern population densities fluctuation of zooplankton in an environmental unit. The importance of these factors has been stressed by several workers including Arora (2003), John et al., (1980), Rajendra (1992), Kumar and Datta (1994), Kodarkar (1992) and Desilva (2002). However these parameters are extremely variable from place to place and from time to time. These parameters also interact with each other in a variety of ways. In such conditions it is rather difficult to draw

specific conclusions about the individual effects of these parameters on population densities of zooplankton. But it can be expressed in general that the fluctuating patterns of physico-chemical conditions of water affects the distribution of zooplankton.

Maximum density of zooplankton occurred at site A1 (18200 individuals L⁻¹) during February whereas minimum population (1850 individuals L⁻¹) was recorded during August at site A2. Generally the density of zooplankton was lower at site A2 in all months as compared to site A1 and A3. The average density of zooplankton at the three selected sites of reservoir i.e. A1, A2 and A3 were 6250 individuals L⁻¹, 4125 individuals L⁻¹ and 4000 individuals L⁻¹ respectively. The highest value of zooplankton were found in the month of February and the values were 18200 individuals L⁻¹, 11200 individuals L⁻¹ and 12800 individuals L⁻¹ at the sites A1, A2 and A3, respectively. The lowest density of zooplankton was observed in the month of August and the values were 3000 individuals L⁻¹, 1850 individuals L⁻¹ and 2400 individuals L⁻¹ at the sites A1, A2 and A3, respectively. The density of zooplankton was lowest at site A2 in all the months as compared to site A1 and A3 because of little continuous flow through irrigation canal as outlet.

According to Shapiro et al., (1975) the trophic cascade theory predicts that increased planktivorous fish biomass reduces biomass of zooplankton and consequently increases phytoplankton biomass. Nanak Sagar reservoir is dominated by planktivorous fishes. Meerhoff et al., (2007) stated that subtropical systems. tropical and fish typically maintain a quasi-permanent sizeselective predation pressure on zooplankton, even in the presence of submerged macrophytes, that influence to lead a reduced abundance of large bodied herbivorous zooplankton.

Various indices such as Shannon-Wiener diversity index (H) and Simpson index of diversity (D), were used to analyze species diversity. The analyzed data revealed the maximum species diversity in terms of Shannon-Wiener Index (H =3.32) at site A2 whereas minimum value of this was recorded at station A1 and A3 with H= 3.14 and 3.12 respectively. Higher the value of H, higher is the diversity of the ecosystem. The species diversity approach is generally a more reliable measure of biodiversity than other indices such as species richness. The maximum zooplankton diversity in terms of Simpson index of diversity (D) was recorded at site A2 i.e. (D= 0.3097) and minimum species diversity were recorded at site A1 and A2 with values of D= 0.3210 and 0.3210 respectively. A lower value of D indicates higher biodiversity.

In our study the probability that two randomly selected individuals will belong to the same species at the site A1 and A3 community (D = 0.3210) is higher than the site A2 (D = 0.3097) indicating lower biodiversity at site A1 and A3 as compared A2. According to Xie et al., (1996) the species diversities of copepods and rotifers responded differently to water nutrient levels; when the levels changed from nutrientmoderate to nutrient-rich, the diversity decreases (i.e., nutrient enrichment decreased zooplankton diversity). Because contamination-resistant species in nutrientrich water can become dominant and the growth of other species is inhibited, which can decrease diversity. Among zooplankton rotifers respond more quickly to the environmental changes and used as indicator for a change in water quality (Gannon and Stemberger, 1978). Shannon-Weaner Index is a combination of the number of species and the evenness of distribution of individuals among taxa. It may function as a sensitive indicator for pollution (Klemm et al., 1990).

The results indicate that distribution and diversity of zooplankton is depending on the physico-chemical parameters prevailing in the environment. Hence measures should be taken to minimize the pollution by minimizing or preventing boating and other human activities. It is understood that the Nanak Sagar reservoir is very good for natural pisciculture (fin-fish and shell-fish) practices. In addition, the data generated from this investigation are being useful to the decision maker for the effective conservation and sustainable utilization of this water body.

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