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BIODIVERSITY AND POPULATION ECOLOGY OF PHYTOPLANKTON



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ABSTRACT

In Indian subcontinent the literature on freshwater fauna and physico-chemical parameter is being scattered because findings of one reservoir may not hold good for another. The long old idea that a suitable environment is necessary for any organisms, since life depends upon the continuance of proper exchanges of essential substances and energies between organism and its surroundings (Russo, 1978)

*Plankton can be studied as predators and consumers. The study of biomass, spatial distribution in time and their importance in transformation of energy from one trophic level to next highest and overall energy dynamics contributes to the limnology of a reservoir (Vijaikumar and Paul, 1990, Kodarkar et al., 1998). Plankton consisting plant parts is called as **Phytoplankton**. Zacharies (1998) was the first to*

recognise the existence of planktons in river and designated them as potamoplankton. Plants which inhabit the bottom of large water bodies are called as Benthos. The benthic organisms, their number and biodiversity pattern also depend on the physico-chemical characteristics of water. The plankton can also be classified according to size of the constituents as nano, micro and macro plankton. The small phytoplankton is called micro-phytoplankton. The micro phytoplankton has size less than 3 mm and dimensions between 0.06 mm to 3.0 mm (Patil and Marathe, 1982; Patil, 1987).

KEY WORDS

Biodiversity Population, Ecology, Phytoplankton etc.