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Study of Zooplankton Diversity of Mul Lake of Chandrapur District, Maharashtra State (India)

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Abstract: *Zooplankton organisms play a very crucial role in the trophic dynamics and energy transfer in aquatic ecosystem. Their abundance increases in eutrophic water. They are also sensitive to pollution and many species are recognized as indicators of pollution. It is an integral component of an aquatic ecosystem. The Mul town is in the Chandrapur district of eastern part of Maharashtra and is situated between 200,07,N and 790 ,67, E. It is a taluka headquarter and commercially important town on Gondia, Chandrapur south central eastern railway line. It is popularly known as Rice city because of number of modern rice processing units in an around the town. It has also been a centre for educational facilities which culminated in progressively increasing urbanization with a population of about 30,000. The area being traditionally paddy growing, in the town there are two ponds and one lake, the water of which is primarily used for irrigation, aquaculture and for other sociocultural practices. Water samples were collected in polythene bottles (two litters capacity) once in month from the selected sampling sites of two lakes to analyze the water quality parameters for the period of 24 months i.e. from January 2011 to December 2012. Zooplankton belonged to Rotifera, cladocera, copepod and ostracoda of the lake, the two year average showed the following sequence of their abundance.*
Mul Lake = Rotifera> Cladocera >Copepoda>Ostracoda .In the present investigation, total zooplankton was recorded maximum during summer and minimum during monsoon.

Keywords: Zooplankton, Rotifera, Copepoda, Cladocera, Ostracoda& Mul lake

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