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A Preliminary Survey of Algal Biodiversity of Tawarja Dam, Latur, Maharashtra

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Abstract: While working on algal biodiversity of Tawarja dam (from January 2023 to December 2023) away 20 kms from Latur, the researcher came across a total of 233taxa under 57 genera, of which 128 taxa under 32 genera were belonged to Chlorophyceae, 80 taxa under 22 genera were belonged to Cyanophyceae and 25 taxa under 3 genera were belonged to Euglenophyceae. Seasonal variation studies reveals that Chlorophyceae were found dominant in monsoon season, Cyanophyceae were found in winter season and the members of Euglenophyceae were found dominantly in the summer seasons

Keywords: Algal Biodiversity, Tawarja Dam, Seasonal variation

I. INTRODUCTION

Tawarja dam is 21 kmsaway from the Latur Headquarter. Tawarja river drainage basin is one of the sub basins of river Manjra. The dam was constructed on river Tawarja in 1982 near Utti (Khurd) and Utti (Budrukh). It is medium size dam having catchment area of about 250.52 km2.Height of the dam about its lowest foundation is 14.3m (47 ft) while length is 2222m (7290ft). The volume content is 361m3 and gross storage capacity is 20520.00 km2. Tawarja dam catchment extends between 180 14'00''N to 180 24'00''N latitude and 760 15'0''E to 760 27'00''E longitude.Biodiversity of algae from different aquatic habitats were extensively studied in India. In the present century great advances have been made in the investigations of fresh water algae, marine algae, soil algae and particular attentions has been paid to their taxonomy ,ecology and applied aspects. But very few reports have paid attentions on diversity of algae in Marathwada region of Maharashtra, Kamat (1974),Ashtekar (1980),Nandan (1993), Andhale (2008), Talekar (2009) and Yadav (2010) although the climatic conditions of Marathwada regions are most suitable to grow algae luxuriantly and in diverse form,therefore to fulfill this lacuna present work was carried out.

FIELD WORK

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Tawarja dam is 20 kms away from the Latur Headquarter. Tawarja river drainage basin is one of the sub basin of river Manjra. The algal samples were collected from January 2023 to December 2023. The algal collections were made regularly from various selected sites of dam area. Acid washed collection bottles were used for the collection of algal samples. Floating, planktonic, submerged, attached epiphytic and soil algal samples were collected separately in collection bottles. Plankton nets were used to collect the planktonic algae. Field note book was maintained in which the color of the algae, habit, habitat and dates of collection were noted, the pH of the water of the collection spots was recorded by studying at least three samples of water from three different places of the collection spots.

LABORATORY WORK

On return to the laboratory from field, the collections were carefully observed under the microscope and important points were noted. All collections were preserved in 4% commercial formalin added with 5% glycerine. Generally 5 to 10 random temporary mounts were made from each collection for microscopic observations. Camera Lucida diagrams of these algae have been drawn by mirror type of camera Lucida for the proper and accurate measurements. Microphotograph were also taken and presented in taxonomic description of algae. Identification of algal taxa was performed by referring to the standard literature on algae. The systems of classification followed here is substantially that of Smith (1951, 1955), Prescott (1951), Philipose (1967), Geitler(1932) and Desikachary (1959), Randhawa (1959),

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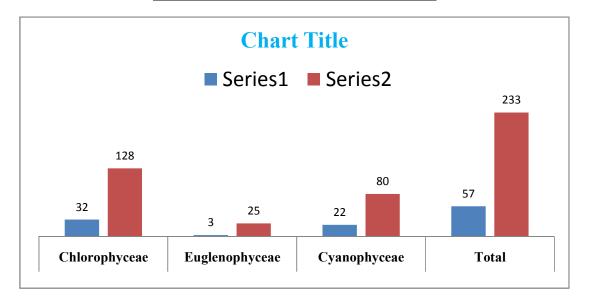
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Scott and Prescott (1961), Gonzalves (1981), Desikachary (1959). Taxonomic accounts of all identified algal taxa were made for the three groups of algae viz. Chlorophyeae, Euglenophyceae and Cyanophyceae.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:
Table 1: Total occurrence of Algal taxa from selected sites of Tawarja dam:

SR.NO.	Class	Genera	Species
1.	Chlorophyceae	32	128
2.	Euglenophyceae	03	25
3.	Cyanophyceae	22	80
	Total	57	233



A total of 233 species under 57 genera were recorded at the streams, of which 128 species under 32 genera belonged to Chlorohyceae. Among the Chlorophyceae the various genera with maximum number of species were *Cosmarium, Scenedesmus, Tetraedron, Pediastrum, Spirogyra, Mougeotia, Zygnema, Closterium* and *Ankistrodesmus*, the various genera with single species were *ProtococcusDictyosphaerium, Dactylococcus, Selenastrum, Kirchneriella, Chlorococcum, Conocossus* and *Desmidium.* 25 species under 3 genera belonged to Euglenophyceae, of which *Trachelomonas, Phacus* and *Euglena* were found dominant genera with maximum number of species. Cynophyceae members were represented by 80 species under 22 genera. Among CyanophyceaeOscillatoria, Phormidium, Lyngbya, Chroococcus, Merismopedia, Aphanocapsa, were found with maximum number of species. Microcystis, Gloeothece, Synechococcus, Dactylococcopsis, Johannesbaptistia, Hydrococcus, Arthrospira, Spirulina, Schizothrix, Symploca, Hydrocoleum, Homoeothrix were the genera found with single species. (Table 1).

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