

THE ALGAL FLORA AND SEASONAL VARIATIONS OF SPECIES ABUNDANCE IN KILICOZU STREAM (KIRSEHIR) TURKEY

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The algal composition, seasonal variation in species abundance and the physical and chemical properties of Kilicozu stream were researched between March 2000 and February 2001. Samples were taken from plankton, epilithon and epiphyton at five stations. A total of 168 taxa were identified with 125 taxa belonging to Bacillariophyta, 10 to Chlorophyta, 7 to Euglenophyta and 26 to Cyanophyta. Bacillariophyta was dominant while Cyanophyta was subdominant group. *Fragilaria ulna*, *Achnanthes minutissima* var. *minutissima*, *Cocconeis placentula* var. *euglypta*, *Gomphonema olivaceum* var. *olivaceum*, *G. angustatum* var. *productum* and *Oscillatoria* spp. were abundant and widespread in plankton. At the exit of the dam (1st station) and the 3rd station with intake of hot water, species numbers were richer and more abundant. In April, May, June and July low level of dissolved oxygen was recorded (0.5-3 mg. l⁻¹) at the 2nd, 4th and 5th stations. In these stations, Cyanobacteria was observed to be high as a result of nitrification. In plankton the highest number of organisms recorded was 12,061.307 org.x10³ l⁻¹ (4th station). Cyanobacteria formed approximately 90% of this amount. There were more of *Oscillatoria* spp., *Sphaerotylus natans*, *Chrenoethrix polyspora*, *Beggiatoa alba* and *Rhabdochromatium* sp. at these stations. The amount of Chlorophyll *a* varied between 0.027-8.5 mg l⁻¹. The growth of Cyanobacteria in plankton was parallel with that of Bacillariophyta in epilithon. The formation of anoxic medium at the 2nd, 4th and 5th stations in conjunction with organic pollution is a matter of great interest.

Keywords : Algae; Flora; Kilicozu stream; Kizilirmak river; Seasonal variation; Turkey.

Introduction

Turkey is a country with rich inland waters with approximately 145,000 km of running waters. However, studies on flora in running waters in Turkey are limited¹⁻¹⁵. The freshwater flora of Turkey has not yet been studied. For this reason, the identification of species and seasonal variation are given priority. In this study, the algal flora and seasonal variations of species abundance in Kilicozu stream were researched. The physical, chemical and algological features were correlated with the level of pollution.

Kilicozu stream is found in the Central Anatolian region and flows into Kizilirmak river, the longest river in Turkey (Fig. 1). It is located on 970 m altitude. The average temperature is 11.3°C with highest 22.9°C in July and lowest-0.4°C recorded in January. The average relative humidity is 63% and average precipitation is 377.5 mm. According to Emberger, it has a semi-drought and very cold biomediterranean climate¹⁶. The average flow rate of the stream is 3.4 m³/s. But in the recent years this has fallen to 2.4 m³/s. Geologically, the margins of the valley

have alluvium soil areas as the product of the Quaternary era.

Material and Methods

Algal samples were collected monthly between January and December 2000. After fixing planktonic algae with lugol solution, counting was done by Lackey's method¹⁷. The amount of Chlorophyll *a* was measured with spectrophotometric method using methanol¹⁸. Epilithic algae were counted on temporary slides through phototactic movement method¹⁹. Epiphytic community was obtained from scratching and washing the surfaces of species such as *Typha latifolia* L., *Potamogeton pectinatus* L., *Juncus inflexus* L., *Salix alba* L., *Myriophyllum* sp. and *Elodea canadensis* Michx. The same process was used on stones to obtain epilithic community and samples were fixed in lugol solution. For diatoms that could not be identified on temporary slides, permanent slides method was used. Identifications were made following various literature²⁰⁻³⁴. Temperature, dissolved oxygen, salinity and conductivity were measured *in situ*. Other analysis were done at the State

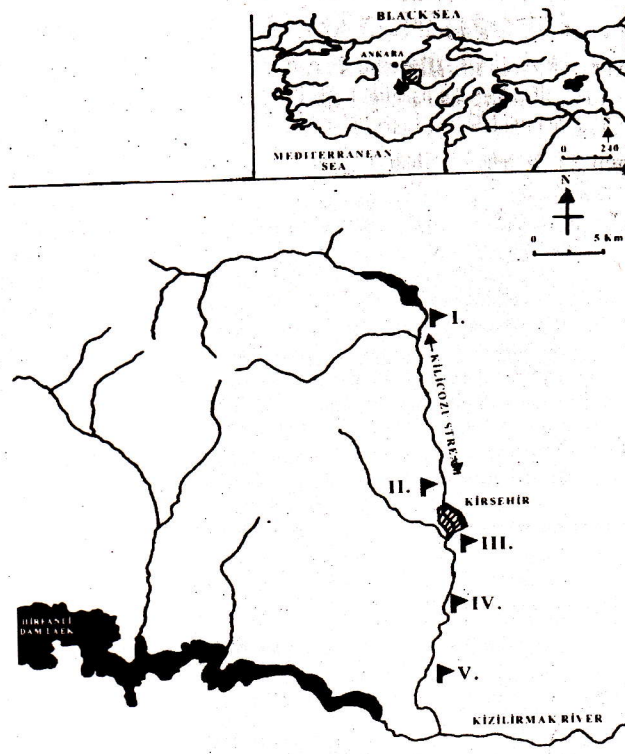


Fig. 1. Maps of location and sampling stations.

Water Works laboratory in Kayseri. The results are shown in Table 1.

The selected stations had differences in properties. For example, the 1st station is near the dam exit, the 2nd has direct waste input from animal barn, the 4th station is the region where industrial wastes mix with the stream. The 3rd station is the site where a hot spring joins the stream. Kilicozu stream harbours all the city sewage, industrial and agricultural wastes. 5th station was near the point where the stream entered the Kizilirmak river.

Results and Discussion

The stream : It was observed that throughout the period of sample-taking, there were many differences in terms of physical and chemical properties, algal compositions and species abundance between stations.

Temperature varied between 4-25°C. The 3rd station, a site with an inflow of a hot spring, with temperature ranging between

11.9-25°C has an average of 18°C (Table 1). Amount of dissolved oxygen varied between 1.29-10.663 mg l⁻¹. The highest oxygen values were recorded in the months of November, December, January, February and March (Fig. 2). Ammonia-N value varied between 0.08-15.2 mg l⁻¹ and nitrate-N between 0.01-5.09 mg l⁻¹ (Fig. 3). Turbidity was observed to be between 1-70 NTU, with highest at the 2nd station, a site where barn and household wastes flow into the stream. The station at the entrance into Kizilirmak river is richer in minerals such as Na⁺, K⁺, Ca⁺⁺ and Mg⁺⁺. Here conductivity and salinity were higher and the later varied between 0.5-0.7 ppt.

Species composition : A total of 194 taxa were identified in all the habitats (Table 2). In terms of species number and abundance of cells, *Bacillariophyta* was the dominant group while Cyanophyta was subdominant. The abundance of species at the 1st station, the exit of the dam is a typical representative. Among other algal species especially

Cladophora sp., *Spirogyra* sp. and *Ulothrix* sp. were observed more at the 1st station while *Euglena acus* and *E. gracilis* were more abundant in the last station. Throughout the study, *Fragilaria ulna*, *Cocconeis placentula* var. *euglypta*, *Gomphonema angustatum* var. *producta* (except 1st station) and *Oscillatoria minima* (except 1st station) in all habitats and in plankton, *Nitzschia palea*, *Navicula cryptocephala* (especially 1st and 3rd stations) were observed in abundance and widespread.

Seasonality of phytoplankton and epipelon :

The amount of chlorophyll *a* measured varied between 0.027-8.56 mg l⁻¹. The quantity of organisms in plankton between 0.608-12.021 org. x10³ cm⁻² (Fig. 4) and in epipelon it varied between 0.211-406.115 org.x10³ cm⁻² (Fig. 5). Especially at the 3rd station species belonging to *Oscillatoria* (eg. *O. tenuis*, *O. minima*, *O. angustata*) which grow well on hot water and species of diatoms such as *F. ulna* (max. in Aug. 759.730 org.l⁻¹), *C.placentula* var. *euglypta* (max.in May 640.000 org.l⁻¹), *G. angustatum* var. *producta* (max. in May 124.700 org. l⁻¹) were generally dominant in plankton. In this station where water temperature is high in winter (average 12.5 °C), number of epipellic species were observed to be high. In December, *Navicula pupula* formed 26% of the total number of diatoms and *Nitzschia sigmoideae* 25.9%. The highest density of organisms was recorded in February (64.952 org.x10³ cm⁻²) because of the ideal water temperature (12.1°C), dissolved oxygen (8.53 mg l⁻¹), ammonia-N (1.3 mg l⁻¹) and total P (2.97 mg l⁻¹) contributed positively to the growth of organisms. Also in February the abundance of Cyanobacteria was only 3.929 org. l⁻¹. For the months of May, June and July in epipelon especially *N.palea* (Average 276.6 org.cm⁻², in plankton *O.tenuis* (average 1.750 org.x 10³ l⁻¹) showed maximum growth.

At the entrance of Kizilirmak river (5th station), in phytoplankton in spring and the beginning of summer, *G. angustatum* var. *producta* (average 248.27 org.x10³ l⁻¹),

in epipelon in (May, June and July) *N. palea* (average 276.658 org.x10³ l⁻²), *O. tenuis* (18.075 org.x10³ l⁻¹) had reached these high values. In June, in epipelon from the group of Euglenophyta, *E. gracilis* (64.816 org.x10³ l⁻¹) reached this maximum value, but in the other months, this species was observed to be rare and less in number.

In phytoplankton at the 3rd station, *C.placentula* var. *euglypta* (in Oct. 1,028.091 org.x10³ l⁻¹), *G.angustatum* var. *producta* (in July 153.333 org.x10³ l⁻¹) and *O.minima* (in July 214.666 org.x10³ l⁻¹) had reached their maximum values (Fig. 4). At the 2nd and 4th stations, only Cyanophyta species and some members of Bacillariophyta were recorded.

The algal flora of Kilicozu stream was observed to be rich. One of the major reasons is the presence of a dam lake just before the research area. The phytoplankton community and abundance diminished rapidly by flowing into the running water³⁵. In this study, the highest number of organisms (approx. 80% of total species) was recorded at the first station and showed regular abundance changes. However, the shallowness of the sampling stations provided positive conditions (e. g.penetration of light, water temperature and dissolved oxygen) for the growth of algae. Generally, the stream is enriched artificially with organic wastes that create a polluted medium. It was observed that especially at the 2nd and 4th stations that owing to nitrification that resulted in anoxic conditions, the richness in species and abundance were affected negatively. This condition was more conspicuous in benthos. Species of Cyanophyta such as *Sphaerotylus natans*, *Crenothrix* sp., *Beggiatoa* sp., *Rhabdochromatium* sp. and *Chironomid* larvae from *Oligochaetes* had shown excessive reproduction. For this reason, the stream could be evaluated as being in the mesosabrobic zone³⁶.

Another area of interest is the 3rd station with intake of hot spring. High temperature and increase in flow rate provided a special medium. Species such as

Table 1. Physical and chemical characteristics of Kilicozu Stream, Turkey.

Parameters		Min.	Max.	Average
1	pH	6.26	8.55	7.6
2	Temperature (°C)	4.0	25.0	14.9
3	Conductivity ($\mu\text{mhos cm}^{-1}$)	362	1450 ⁺⁺	785
4	Salinity (ppt)	0.2 ^x	0.7 ⁺⁺	0.4
5	Oxygen (mg l^{-1})	0.56 ⁺⁺	10.63	6.02
6	Turbidity (NTU)	1 ⁺	70	18.6
7	Total solued solids (mg l^{-1})	328	854	550
8	Colour (Pt-co)	5	35	9.5
9	Total alkalinity (mg l^{-1})	201	424 ⁺⁺	325
10	Ammonia-N (mg l^{-1})	0.08 ⁺⁺	15.2 ⁺⁺	3.94
11	Nitrite-N (mg l^{-1})	0.001 ^x	2.48 ⁺⁺	0.239
12	Nitrate-N (mg l^{-1})	0.01	5.59 ⁺⁺	1.37
13	Nitrate-N (mg l^{-1})	0	27 ⁺	9
14	T.hardness ($\text{mg l}^{-1} \text{CaCO}_3$)	227	562 ⁺⁺	358
15	Ortho-phosphate (mg l^{-1})	0.01 ⁺	3.65 ⁺⁺	1.15
16	Total phosphate (mg l^{-1})	0.06 ^x	4.13 ⁺⁺	2.01
17	Sulfate (mg l^{-1})	11.3 ^x	141 ⁺⁺	49.8
18	Iron (mg l^{-1})	0.01 ^x	0.72	0.14
19	Sodium (mg l^{-1})	15.2 ^x	140.9 ⁺⁺	43.6
20	Potassium (mg l^{-1})	1.17 ^x	25.4 ⁺	5.87
21	Calcium (mg l^{-1})	3.19 ^x	154.3 ⁺⁺	96.5
22	Magnesium (mg l^{-1})	1.58 ^x	67.1 ⁺⁺	26.8

^x 1st, ⁺2nd and ⁺⁺ 5th stations

Oscillatoria were abundant and widespread in this station. At places where there was decrease in flow rate (1st, 2nd, 3rd stations), there was a formation of a rich flora. Similar condition was encountered in rivers in England³⁷. Generally, in Europe and in Turkey, in plankton and benthos, Bacillariophyta is the dominant group followed by Chlorophyta³⁸⁻⁴⁰. But in Kilicozu stream, Bacillariophyta is the dominant group and

Cyanophyta subdominant. Members of Chlorophyta were not encountered in stations that showed anoxic conditions. This situation has never been recorded in our running waters. The values of Chlorophyll *a* too did not show parallel increase with the abundance of organism because it is known that members of Chlorophyta and Bacillariophyta have effect on the amount of chlorophyll *a*⁴¹.

It is therefore recommended that

Table 2. Algal species of Kilicozu Stream according to their habitat.

SPECIES	PLANKTON	EPHEMERIC	EPILITHIC	EPHYPHYTIC
DIVISION : BACILLARIOPHYTA				
<i>Melosira varians</i> C.A. Agardh	+	+	+	+
<i>Aulocoseira ambigua</i> (Grun.) Simonsen.			+	
<i>Cyclotella comta</i> (Ehr.) Kütz.		+	+	+
<i>C. ocellata</i> Pantocksek	+	+	-	-
<i>C. meneghiniana</i> Kützing.		+		
<i>Stephanodiscus dubius</i> (Fricke) Hustedt	+	+		
<i>S. hantzschii</i> Grun.	+			
<i>Diatoma vulgare</i> Bory	+	+	+	+
<i>Synedra acus</i> Kütz.	+			
<i>S. acus</i> var. <i>angustissima</i> Grun		+		
<i>Fragilaria capucina</i> var. <i>vaucheria</i> (Kützing) Lange-Bertalot	+			
<i>F. intermedia</i> Grun.	+			
<i>F. ulna</i> (Nitasc.) Lange-Bertalot	+	+	+	+
<i>Achnanthes affinis</i> Grun.		+		+
<i>A. bahusiensis</i> (Grun.) Lange-Bertalot	+	+		

<i>A. clevei</i> Grun.	+	+		
<i>A. delicatula</i> Kütz.	+			
<i>A. hungarica</i> Grun.	+			+
<i>A. lanceolata</i> de Brebisson	+			+
<i>A. lanceolata</i> var. <i>rostrata</i> Hust.	+			+
<i>A. minutissima</i> Kütz. var. <i>minutissima</i>	+			+
<i>Achnanthes</i> sp.				
<i>A. thermalis</i> Rabenhorst	+			
<i>Concooneis placenta</i> Ehr.	+			+
<i>C. placenta</i> var. <i>euglypta</i> (Ehr.) Cleve	+			+
<i>Rhoicosphenia curvata</i> (Kütz.) Grun.	+			+
<i>Gyrosigma acuminatum</i> (Kütz.) Rabh.	+			+
<i>G. strigile</i> W.Sm.				
<i>Diploneis ovalis</i> (Hilse) Cleve	+			+
<i>Nedium dubium</i> (Ehr.) Cleve				
<i>N. iridis</i> var. <i>amphigomphus</i> (Ehr.) Van Heurck				+
<i>Stauroneis pygmaea</i> Krieger	+			
<i>S. smithii</i> Grun.	+			+
<i>Anomooneis sphaerophora</i> (Ehr.) Pfizter				+

<i>C. amphicephala</i> var. <i>hercynica</i> (A. Schmidt) Cleve			+		
<i>C. cuspidata</i> Kütz.			+		
<i>C. helvetica</i> Kütz.				+	
<i>C. lanceolata</i> (Ehr.) Van Heurck	+		+	+	
<i>C. obtusiuscula</i> (Kütz) Grun.	+		+		
<i>Cymbella prostrata</i> (Barkeley) Cleve					+
<i>C. sinuata</i> Greg. var. <i>sinuata</i>				+	
<i>C. tumida</i> (Breb.) Van Heurck					+
<i>C. venetricosa</i> Kütz.			+	+	
<i>A. ovalis</i> Kütz.			+		+
<i>A. pediculus</i> Kütz.		+	+		+
<i>A. veneta</i> Kütz.		+	+		
<i>Gomphonema angustatum</i> (Kütz.) Rabh.			+		
<i>G. angustatum</i> var. <i>producta</i> Grun.	+		+	+	
<i>G. augur</i> Ehr. var. <i>sphaerophorum</i> (Ehr.) Lang Bertalot			+		
<i>G. constrictum</i> var. <i>capitata</i> (Ehr.) Cleve			+	+	+
<i>G. dichotomum</i> Kütz.			+		
<i>G. intricatum</i> Kütz.					+
<i>G. olivacea</i> (Lyngbye) Dawson	+		+	+	+

<i>G. olivaceum</i> (Lygb.) Kütz. var. <i>olivaceum</i>			+		
<i>G. parvulum</i> (Kütz.) Grun.			+	+	
<i>G. parvulum</i> var. <i>micropus</i> (Kütz.) Cl.				+	+
<i>Denticula tenuis</i> Kütz.			+	+	+
<i>D. kützingii</i> Grunow.					+
<i>Nitzschia acicularis</i> W. Smith			+	+	+
<i>N. angustata</i> (W. Sm.) Grun.				+	
<i>N. amphibia</i> Grun.			+		+
<i>N. closterium</i> (Ehr.) W. Sm.				+	
<i>N. constricta</i> (Kütz.) Ralf				+	
<i>N. dissipata</i> (Kütz.) Grun.			+	+	+
<i>N. dubia</i> W. Smith			+	+	+
<i>N. gracilis</i> Hantssch.			+	+	
<i>N. hantzschiana</i> Rabh.			+	+	+
<i>N. hungarica</i> var. <i>capitata</i> (Ehr.) Cleve.			+	+	
<i>N. inconspicua</i> Grun			+		
<i>N. intermedia</i> Hantzsch			+	+	+
<i>N. linearis</i> W. Smith			+	+	
<i>N. obtusa</i> W. Smith			+		
<i>N. palea</i> (Kütz.) W. Smith			+	+	+

<i>C. turgidus</i> (Kuetz.) Naegeli	+	+	+		
<i>Merismopedia glauca</i> (Ehrenb.) Naegeli	+	+	+		+
<i>M. punctata</i> Meyen			+		
<i>Holopedia geminata</i> Lagerth.	+	+	+		
<i>Gomphosphaeria aponina</i> Kg.	+	+	+		
<i>Dactylococcopsis acicularis</i> Lemm.	+	+			
<i>Spirulina major</i> Kuetzing	+	+			
<i>Oscillatoria angusta</i> Koppe	+	+			
<i>O. curviceps</i> C.A. Agardh		+			
<i>O. formosa</i> Bory		+			
<i>O. guttulata</i> Van Goor	+	+			
<i>O. limnetica</i> Lemm.	+	+	+		+
<i>O. minima</i> Gicklhorn	+	+			+
<i>O. ornata</i> Kg.			+		
<i>O. planktonica</i> Wol.	+	+			
<i>O. prolifica</i> (Grev.) Gomond.					+
<i>O. sancta</i> (Kuetz.) Gomont					+
<i>O. Splendida</i> Greville	+	+			
<i>O. tenuis</i> C.A. Agardh	+	+	+		+
<i>Oscillatoria</i> sp.	+	+			

<i>Phormidium mucicola</i> Navmann & Huber	+	+			
Pestaloz.					
<i>Lynbya Lauterbornii</i> (Schmidle) Uterm.	+	+			
<i>Anabaena affinis</i> Lemm.			+		
<i>Beggiatoa alba</i> (Vauch.)	+				
<i>Crenothrix polyspora</i> Cohn				+	
<i>Lamprocystis rosea-persicina</i> (Kg.) Schroter	+				
<i>Rhabdochromatium roseum</i> (Cohn.) Winogr.	+				
<i>Sphaerotylus natans</i> Kg	+				

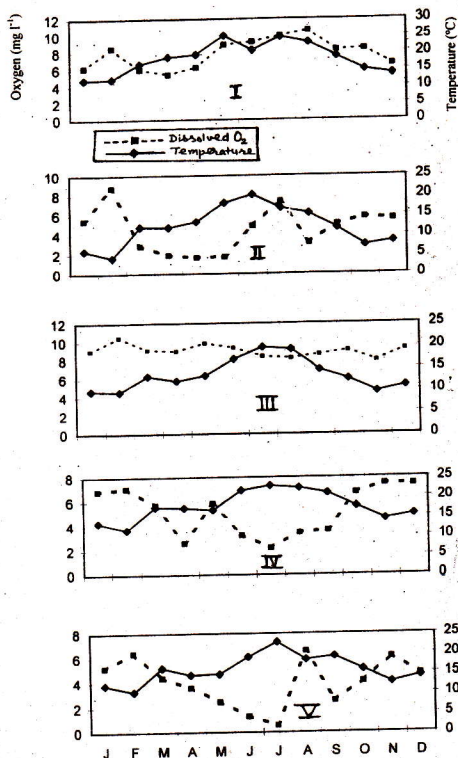


Fig. 2. Seasonal changes in quantity of water surface temperature and oxygen in five stations. (J-D for months January-December)

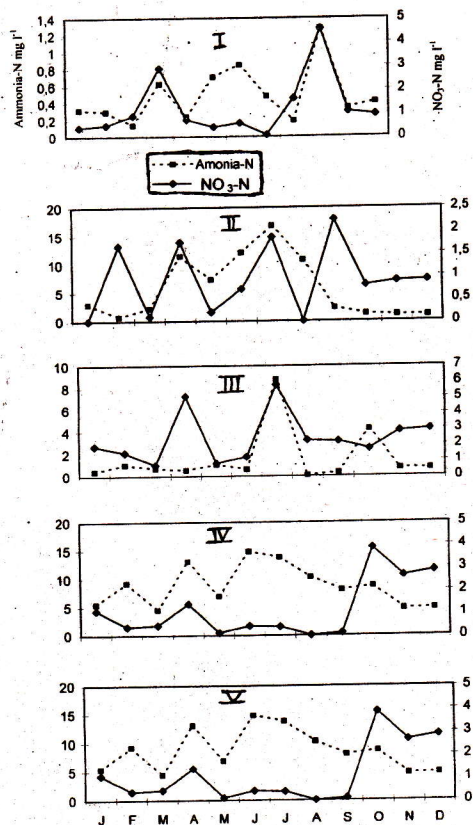


Fig. 3. Ammonia nitrogen and nitrate-nitrogen concentration in the upper of the water in five stations. (J-D for months January-December)

more ecological researches be carried out in Kilicozu stream because of its critical conditions.

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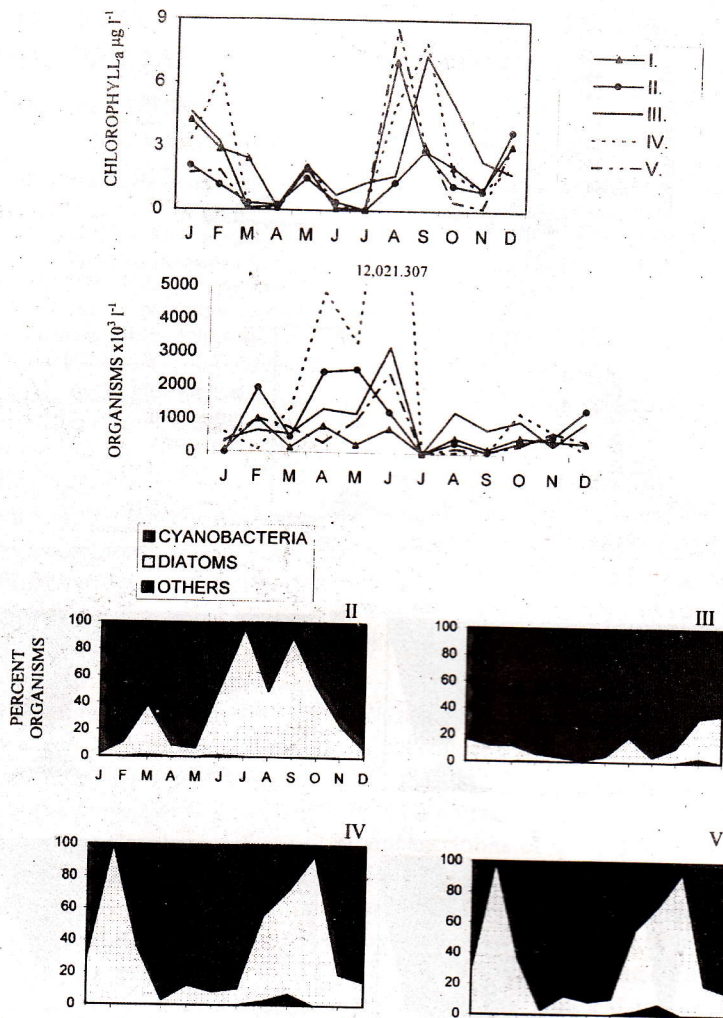


Fig. 4. Seasonal variations in surface phytoplankton composition; its abundance (assessed by org. number) and percent organisms.

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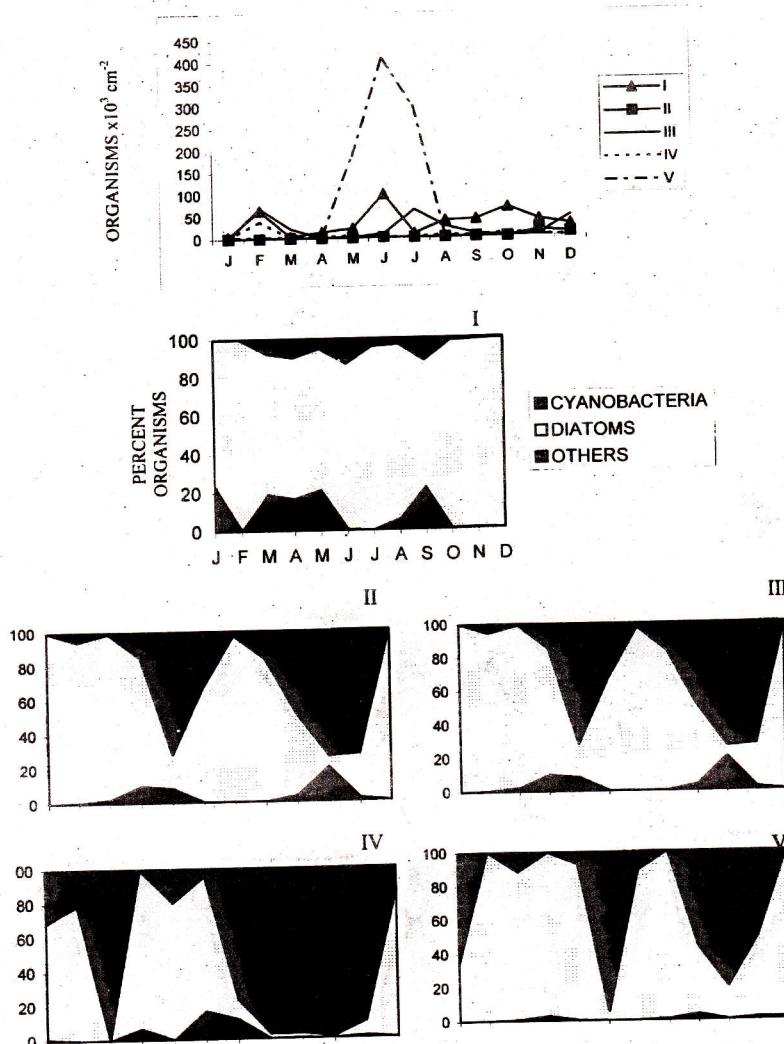


Fig. 5. Seasonal variations in surface epipelagic algae composition its abundance (assessed by org. number) and percent organisms.

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