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ALGAL FLORA OF SALT LAKES OF RAJASTHAN

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Fourteen genera from cyanophyta and 2 of chlorophyta spread over 23 species have been reported from Sambhar and Didwana lakes of Rajasthan.

Keywords: Chlorophytes; Cyanophytes; Salt lakes.

The Rajasthan is rich in having 3 salt tracts in the state; i.e. Sambhar, Didwana lakes and Pachbhadra basin. Of the three, Sambhar and Didwana lakes have drawn the attention of phycologists and following algal flora have been reported[1-4].

Algae	Habitat	Reference
Cyanophyta		
Chroococcus minor (kutz) Naeg.	Sambhar lake	1
Synechococcus elongatus Naeg.	Sambhar lake	3
Synechococcus cedrorum	Sambhar lake	4
Aphanothece halophytica	Sambhar and Didwana lak	1
Oscillatoria Sp.	Sambhar lake	4
Oscillatoria Simplicissma Gomont.	Pond near Salt Pits of Sambhar lake	3,4
Oscillatoria Subbrevis schmidle	Sambhar lake	1
Oscillatoria jasorvensis vouk	Sambhar lake	1
Oscillatoria minnosotensis Tildon	Sambhar and Didwana	1
Lyngbya Sp.	Sambhar lake	4
Microcoleus Sp.	Sambhar lake	1
Phormidium Sp.	Sambhar lake	3
Arthrospira platensis Nordst Gomont var. Tenuis	Sambhar and Didwana	1,3,4
Spirulina subsalsa oerst ex Gommont	Sambhar and Didwana	1
Anabaena laxa	Sambhar lake	4
Anabaena fertilissima Rao	Didwana lake	1,3,4
Analaenopsis arnoldii Aptekarj	Sambhar and Didwana lake	1,3,
Nostoc sphericum	Sambhar lake	4
Scytonema Sp.	Sambhar lake	4
Myxosarcina Sp.	Sambhar lake	4
Chlorophyta		
Dunaliella Salina Toed	Sambhar lake	1,4
Rhizoclonium Sp.	Sambhar lake	2

The largest salt lakes of the country have contributed lowest number of algae. In all 23 sps spread over 15 genera have been reported, including 2 genera from Chlorophyta and rest from Cyanophyta. The meagre number may not actually mean the dearth of halotolerant algae but may be due to lack of exploration.

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