

SEASONAL VARIATION AND SPECIES COMPOSITION OF PHYTOPLANKTON IN GANGA RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARY AT GARHWAL REGION, UTTARAKHAND, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The present investigation has been carried out from March, 2005 to Feb., 2007 in order to determine the seasonal variation of phytoplankton from Ganga river and its tributaries. Samples were collected from four different stations. Three phytoplankton samples were collected from stream and one sample from Ganga river. Plankton samples were taken using 25 µm mesh plankton net and, after fixing in 4% formaldehyde and identified in the laboratory. A total of 53 genera belonging to 5 groups viz. *Chlorophyceae*, *Bacillariophyceae*, *Cyanophyceae*, *Xanthophyceae* and *Euglenophyceae* were recorded with maximum number of genera from green algae, *Chlorophyceae* (26) followed by *Bacillariophyceae* (12), *Cyanophyceae* (10), *Euglenophyceae* (4) and *Xanthophyceae* (1). The maximum diversity of phytoplankton was recorded maximum at site I (upstream) followed by site II (midstream) while it was recorded minimum at site IV (Ganga river).

KEYWORDS: Phytoplankton, chlorophyceae, synedra, Hinval stream, Ganga River