

STRUCTURE OF PHYTOPLANKTON COMMUNITIES FROM THE PONDS OF “ÎNTRÉ LACURI” QUARTER, CLUJ-NAPOCA (TRANSYLVANIA, ROMANIA)

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Abstract: Structure of phytoplankton communities from the ponds of “Între Lacuri” quarter, Cluj-Napoca (Transylvania, Romania). The species composition of planktonic algal communities were studied based on the samples collected in 2004 and 2005. The algal flora exhibits a high species diversity consisting of 331 taxa identified in 3 ponds. The dominant groups were represented by green algae (*Chlorophyta*) and diatoms (*Bacillariophyta*) - 37.16%, followed by cyanobacteria (*Cyanoprokaryota*) - 14.8%. The contribution of *Euglenophyta*, *Dinophyta*, *Xanthophyta*, *Cryptophyta* and *Chrysophyta* was less than 7%.

According to the number of eutrophic indicator species and the values of the trophic indices, the water of the 3 ponds is eutrophic. The values of the Organic Pollution index indicates heavy organic pollutin for Ponds 1 and 2, and moderate pollution for Pond 3.

Key words: phytoplankton, integrated composite sampling, trophic indices, Organic Pollution Index

Introduction

Phytoplankton, together with benthic algae and macrophytes, constitute the autochthonous primary producers in aquatic ecosystems and, as such, is part of the basis of the food web in terms of energy and material input. To understand the biological functioning of individual rivers, lakes and reservoirs, and to detect changes in them, it is essential to investigate the development of their phytoplankton population. Due to their short life cycle, planktonic algae respond quickly to environmental changes and are thus a valuable indicator of water quality [4].

The “Între Lacuri” quarter situated in the eastern part of the Cluj-Napoca city shelters 3 ponds: Pond 1 is arranged for entertainment, Pond 2 is in advanced state of degradation and in the warm season the surface of its water is covered with a thick layer of *Lemna minor*. Pond 3 is less affected by human activity and in the littoral zone has a well developed paludal vegetation consisting especially of *Phragmites australis*.

The aim of this study was to establish the species composition of the phytoplankton communities, to evaluate the trophic level of the ponds, as well as to assess the water quality.

Materials and Methods

Phytoplankton samples were collected monthly between March 2004 and December 2005 by using integrated composite sampling [2]. The phytoplankton samples filtered through a planktonic net with mesh size of 20 μm were, preserved in 4% formalin and investigated by employing standard methods; the identification of taxa was performed according to the key books widely used in similar investigations [2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12]. Samples have only been assessed from qualitative point of view.

To estimate the water quality we used the Index of Organic Pollution (Palmer) [8]. For the evaluation of the trophic status we calculated 3 more indices: Trophic Index elaborated by Heinonen [3], Chlorophycean Index (Thunmark) and Compound Index (Nygaard) [15].

Results and Discussions

Some morphometrical and physico-chemical parameters of the ponds are given in table 1. pH values indicate alkaline waters. Salinity and conductivity values were higher in Pond 2.

Table 1: Morphometrical and physico-chemical data

Morphometrical and physico-chemical data	Pond 1	Pond 2	Pond 3
Pond area (m ²)	53 120	52 642	
Maximum depth (m)	2	1	1.75
pH	7.68	7.65	7.98
Salinity (mg/l)	0.2	0.5	0.2
Conductivity (µS/cm)	907	1547	887

There were identified 331 taxa (Tab. 2), which belong to the following algal divisions: *Cyanoprokaryota* – 49 taxa (14.8%), *Chrysophyta* – 2 taxa (0.6%), *Xanthophyta* – 3 taxa (0.9%), *Cryptophyta* – 3 taxa (0.9%), *Bacillariophyta* – 123 taxa (37.16%), *Chlorophyta* – 123 taxa (37.16%), *Euglenophyta* – 20 taxa (6.04%) and *Dinophyta* – 8 taxa (2.41%).

Most of the identified species are cosmopolitan and highly tolerant in the same time. Such species are *Chroococcus minutus*, *Peridinium umbonatum*, *Achnanthes minutissima*, *Scenedesmus quadricauda*, *S. acutus*, *Pediastrum boryanum*, *P. tetras*, *Tetraëdron minimum*, *Monoraphidium contortum*, *Oocystis marssonii* and *Euglena acus*. Beside the indifferent forms there were found many eutrophic elements (*Microcystis aeruginosa*, *M. viridis*, *Oscillatoria planctonica*, *Pandorina morum*, *Lagerheimia genevensis*, *Coelastrum reticulatum*, *Aulacoseira granulata*, *Cyclotella meneghiniana*).

The values of the trophic indices indicate eutrophic waters in all 3 ponds. According to the Organic Pollution Index Pond 1 and 2 are heavy polluted, while Pond 3 contains a moderate organic loading (Table 3).

Table 3: Trophic indices and Organic Pollution Index

Indices	Pond 1	Pond 2	Pond 3
Trophic Index	28 eutrophic	30 eutrophic	26 eutrophic
Compound Index	9,66 eutrophic	27 eutrophic	2,84 eutrophic
Chlorophycean Index	5,07 eutrophic	10 eutrophic	4,38 eutrophic
Organic pollution Index	26 Heavy organic pollution	25 Heavy organic pollution	16 Moderate organic pollution

Table 2: Qualitative structure of planktonic algal communities inhabiting the ponds of Între Lacuri quarter, Cluj-Napoca

Taxa	Pond 1												Pond 2												Pond 3																																																																
	2004						2005						2004						2005						2004						2005																																																										
	III	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	III	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	III	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII																																
Cyanophyta																																																																																									
Anabaena circinalis																																					+																																																				
A. constricta																									+												+	+													+												+	+	+																								
Aphanizomenon flos-aquae													+												+												+	+	+												+	+	+	+												+	+	+																					
Aphanocapsa conferta	+	+																																					+												+	+	+	+												+	+	+																					
A. delicatissima	+						+	+													+												+	+	+	+	+													+																																							
A. holsatica													+												+	+													+												+	+													+												+	+	+	+	+								
A. incerta	+													+												+	+	+	+	+	+													+												+	+	+	+	+																													
Aphanothece clathrata													+																																																																												
Bacularia vermicularis																									+																																																																
Chroococcus minutus	+						+																									+												+													+												+																				
Coelosphaeriopsis chlamidocystis																									+												+	+																																																			
Gomposphaeria aponina																																					+																																																				
Lyngbya confervoides																																					+																								+												+																
L. hieronymusii																									+												+													+												+																											
Merismopedia glauca																																					+												+																									+															
M. tenuissima													+																								+												+	+													+																										
M. warmingiana													+																								+																																																				
Microcystis aeruginosa	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+													+												+	+	+	+	+	+	+												+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+																													
M. flos-aquae													+																																																																												
M. viridis	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+												+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+												+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+																																	
M. wesbergii	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+												+												+	+	+												+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+																																			
Oscillatoria acutissima																																																																									+																
O. amphibia	+	+	+	+	+													+												+	+	+	+	+	+	+												+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+												+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+															
O. amphigranulata													+												+												+	+	+	+	+												+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+												+	+																
O. brevis																									+																																																																
O. chalybea																																					+												+																																								
O. deflexoides													+												+	+													+												+												+	+	+	+	+																						
O. formosa	+																		+												+																																																										
O. geminata													+																								+																																				+																
O. guttulata	+	+	+	+						+	+													+																								+																																									
O. irrigua																																					+												+	+													+												+														
O. limnetica	+						+	+																																					+												+	+																															
O. major																																					+																																																				
O. minima	+	+	+																																																																									+												+	+

Taxa	III V VI VII VIII IX X XI XII	II III IV V VI VII VIII IX X XI XII	III V VI VII VIII IX X XI XII	I II III IV V VI	III V VI VII VIII IX X XI XII	I II III IV V VI VII VIII IX X XI XII
<i>O. planctonica</i>	+ + + + +	+ + + + + + +	+ + + + + + +	+ + + + +	+ + + + +	+ + + + + + + + + +
<i>O. princeps</i>						
<i>O. prolifica</i>				+		
<i>O. putrida</i>						
<i>O. quasiperforata</i>						
<i>O. rupicola</i>				+ +	+ +	+ + + + + + + + + +
<i>O. setigera</i>	+ + + + +	+ + + + + + + + +		+ + + +	+ + + +	+ + + + + + + + + +
<i>O. simplicissima</i>						+ + + + + + + + + +
<i>O. tenuis</i>						+ + + + + + + + + +
<i>Phormidium fragile</i>						+ + + + + + + + + +
<i>P. mucicola</i>	+ + + + + + + +	+ + + + + + + +	+ + + +		+ + + + + + + + + +	+ + + + + + + + + +
<i>P. subcapitatum</i>						+ + + + + + + + + +
<i>Spiruluina major</i>						+ + + + + + + + + +
<i>Woronichinia compacta</i>						+ + + + + + + + + +
<i>W. naegeliana</i>	+ + +	+ + + + + + + + +	+ + + + + + + + +		+ + + + + + + + + +	+ + + + + + + + + +
Chrysophyta						
<i>Dinobryon divergens</i>		+ + + + +		+ +		+ + + + + + + + + +
<i>D. setularia</i>						+ + + + + + + + + +
Xanthophyta						
<i>Acanthochloris scherffellii</i>						+ + + + + + + + + +
<i>Goniochloris mutica</i>	+ +					+ + + + + + + + + +
<i>Tetraplectron tribulus</i>						+ + + + + + + + + +
Cryptophyta						
<i>Cryptomonas erosa</i>						+ + + + + + + + + +
<i>C. marssonii</i>						+ + + + + + + + + +
<i>Rhodomonas lacustris</i>						+ + + + + + + + + +
Bacillariophyta						
<i>Achnanthes impexa</i>						+ + + + + + + + + +
<i>A. minutissima</i>	+ + + + +	+ + + + + + + + +	+ + + + + + + + +	+ + + + +	+ + + + + + + + + +	+ + + + + + + + + +
<i>A. lanceolata</i>						+ + + + + + + + + +
<i>Actinocyclus normanii</i>	+ + + + +					+ + + + + + + + + +
<i>Amphora coffeaeformis</i>						+ + + + + + + + + +
<i>A. ovalis</i>						+ + + + + + + + + +
<i>A. pediculus</i>						+ + + + + + + + + +
<i>A. subcapitata</i>						+ + + + + + + + + +
<i>A. veneta</i>						+ + + + + + + + + +

Taxa	III V VI VII VII IX X XI XII	I II III IV V VI VII VIII IX X XI XII	III V VI VII VIII IX X XI	I II III IV V VI	III V VI VII VIII IX X XI	I II III IV V VI VII VIII IX X XI XII
<i>S. spinosus</i> var. <i>bicaudatus</i>		+				+
<i>Sphaerocystis planctonica</i>			+			
<i>Tetraëdron caudatum</i>	++		++		+	++
<i>T. caudatum</i> var. <i>incisum</i>	+		+			
<i>T. constrictum</i>			+			
<i>T. hastatum</i>		++	++			
<i>T. limneticum</i>	+					
<i>T. minimum</i>	+++	+	++		+	+++
<i>T. muticum</i>			+			
<i>T. regulare</i> var. <i>torsum</i>	+					
<i>T. triangulare</i>			+			
<i>T. trilobatum</i>	+					
<i>T. trigonum</i>						
<i>T. trigonum</i> var. <i>gracile</i>	+++		+			++
<i>Tetrastrum elegans</i>	+		+			
<i>T. glabrum</i>	+++		+++		+++	+++
<i>T. staurogeniaeforme</i>	+		++			+
<i>T. triachanthum</i>	+		+			
<i>Treubaria planctonica</i>	++		++			++
<i>T. schmidlei</i>						
<i>Westella botryoides</i>						++
<i>Willea vilhelmii</i>						+
Desmidiiales						
<i>Closterium acutum</i> var. <i>acutum</i>			++			+
<i>C. acutum</i> var. <i>linea</i>	++		++			++
<i>C. acutum</i> var. <i>variable</i>			+			++
<i>C. gracile</i>						+
<i>Cosmarium granatum</i>						+
<i>C. laeve</i> var. <i>laeve</i>	+					
<i>C. laeve</i> var. <i>pseudooctangulare</i>	+					++
<i>C. polygonum</i> var. <i>acutus</i>	+					
<i>C. regnellii</i> var. <i>minimum</i>	+		+			
<i>C. reniforme</i> var. <i>elevatum</i>						+
<i>C. subcostatum</i> var. <i>minus</i>	+					
<i>C. subreinchii</i>			++++			+++
<i>C. tenue</i>						+
<i>Staurostrum chaetoceras</i>						+
<i>S. micron</i> var. <i>micron</i>			++			++

Taxa	III V VI VII VIII IX X XI XII	I II III IV V VI VII VIII IX X XI XII	III V VI VII VIII IX X XI XII	I II III IV V VI	III V VI VII VIII IX X XI XII	I II III IV V VI VII VIII IX X XI XII
<i>S. muticum</i> f. minor		+			+	
<i>S. paradoxum</i>	++ +	+++ +	++ +		++ +	++ +
<i>S. striatum</i>		++				
<i>S. tetracerum</i>	++ +	+++ +	+	+	+++ +	+++ +
<i>Teilingia granulata</i>						+
Euglenophyta						
<i>Euglena acus</i>			+++++	++ +	+++++	+++++
<i>E. clara</i>						+
<i>E. clavata</i>	++ +	+				
<i>E. granulata</i>						+
<i>E. oxyuris</i> f. oxyuris						++ +
<i>E. proxima</i>				+++ +	+++ +	+++ +
<i>E. spathirhynca</i>	+					
<i>E. splendens</i>	+	+				
<i>E. viridis</i>	+					
<i>Lepocinclis ovum</i>	+	+				
<i>Phacus alatus</i>						+
<i>P. brevicaudatus</i>				+++ +		
<i>P. longicauda</i> var. longicauda						+++++
<i>P. longicauda</i> var. tortus					+	+++ +
<i>P. longicauda</i> var. tortuosus						+
<i>P. orbicularis</i>				+++ +		
<i>P. pyrum</i> var. pyrum	++ +	+++ +		+++ +		+
<i>Trachelomonas volvocina</i>	++ +	+++ +	+++ +	++ +	++ +	+++ +
<i>T. volvocina</i> var. punctata						+
<i>T. varians</i>	++					+
Dinophyta						
<i>Glenodinium pulvisculus</i>				+		
<i>Gymnodinium excavatum</i>						+
<i>G. ordinatum</i>		+				
<i>G. rotundatum</i>		+				+
<i>Peridinium aciculiferum</i>					+	++ +
<i>P. cinctum</i>						+
<i>P. inconspicuum</i>						+
<i>P. umbonatum</i>	++	+++ +	++		++ +	+++ +

Conclusions

The analysis of the samples revealed a great diversity of the phytoplankton communities with 331 taxa belonging to 8 algal divisions. The number of species was higher in pond 3 than in the other two.

The values of Organic Pollution Index indicate heavy organic pollution for pond 1 and 2, and moderate one for pond 3.

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STRUCTURA COMUNITĂȚILOR ALGALE PLANCTONICE DIN LACURILE SITUATE ÎN CARTIERUL "ÎNTRE LACURI" AL MUNICIPIULUI CLUJ-NAPOCA

(Rezumat)

Parcul Între Lacuri, situat în partea estică a municipiului Cluj-Napoca cuprinde 3 lacuri: Lacul 1 este amenajat pentru agrement, Lacurile 2 și 3 sunt neamenajate. Datorită adâncimii reduse, acestea fac parte din categoria zonelor umede.

Lucrarea prezintă rezultatele studiilor începute în primăvara anului 2004, fiind primele cercetări privind structura comunităților algale planctonice din aceste zone umede.

Analiza compoziției calitative a comunităților algale planctonice a dus la identificarea a 331 de taxoni. Majoritatea sunt elemente cu răspândire cosmopolită caracteristice apelor eutrofe. Valorile indicatoare ale speciilor precum și valorile indicilor de troficitate calculați încadrează această zonă umedă în categoria celor eutrofe.

Valorile indicelui de poluare organică indică prezența substanțelor organice în cantități moderate în cazul Lacului 3 și ridicate în cazul Lacurilor 1 și 2.