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Research Article

Bioassay of Hydrological Status in the Lentic Ecosystems by using community parameters of Macroenthos as a tool

Abstract

In pollution stressed environment, change in the community structure is reflected in the diversity pattern of the component species. These changes can be quantified as diversity indices, which are useful in water quality monitoring. In this study the diversity and density of macroinvertebrates carried out from the three lakes of Mysore (Bilikere, Hebbal and Lingambudi lakes) to compute different community parameters and the results are interpreted to evaluate the water quality in these lakes. The diversity index, Sequential Comparison Index and Primary production (Gross & Net) recorded highest in the Bilikere lake followed by Hebbal lake and lowest in the Lingambudi lake. The dominance index and Community respiration recorded highest in the Lingambudi lake followed by Hebbal lake (0.11) and lowest in the Bilikere lake (0.06). According to different ecological scales, the water of Bilikere and Hebbal lake is moderately polluted whereas heavily polluted in the Lingambudi lake. Bilikere and Hebbal lakes pair documented highest Jaccard index whereas Bilikere and Lingambudi lakes pair recorded lowest Jaccard index. These community parameters are readymade tool to assess aquatic pollution in the lentic ecosystems.

Introduction

Water, the most vital resource for all kinds of life on this planet is also the resource, adversely affected both qualitatively and quantitatively by all kinds of human activities on land, in air or in water. The increasing industrialization, urbanization and developmental activities and consequent pollution of water have brought a veritable water crisis. Today, most of the aquatic bodies receive large quantity of sewage domestic waste, industrial and agricultural effluents. Pollution of water is responsible for a very large number of mortalities and incapacitations in the world. Polluted state of the water resources has led to a steady decline in fisheries and has also affected the irrigated land. Availability of clean water is going to become the greatest constraint for development to in the coming years. A regular monitoring of water bodies not only prevents diseases and hazards but also checks from further pollution load.

In pollution stressed aquatic environments, change in the community structure is reflected in the diversity patterns of the component species. These changes can be quantified numerically as diversity indices, which are useful in water quality monitoring. Various indices are now extensively used in

measuring stress on plants and animals due to overexploitation and pollution [1-4].

Pollution load decreases the primary productivity of a aquatic body [5]. Pollution also affects the production (P)/respiration (R) ratio, a proper level of which is very essential for the sustenance of the system. In a non-polluted water, the P usually exceeds R but in organically polluted systems R exceeds P and no organic material is left available for the bioactivity of the system leading to system impairment [6]. In the present study an attempt is being made to biomonitor the aquatic pollution by computing different community parameters such as diversity index, dominance index, heterogeneity index, richness index, sequential comparison index, similarity index, primary productivity etc., of benthic macro invertebrates in the lentic ecosystems.

Materials and methods

Three lakes namely Bilikere, Hebbal and Lingambudi lakes in the Mysore are selected for this study during 2014-16 (Figures 1-3). The soil and sediment samples from one meter length X one meter width X one meter depth collected from these lakes and brought to the laboratory. In the lab samples were sorted out to analyze macro invertebrates. The sorted

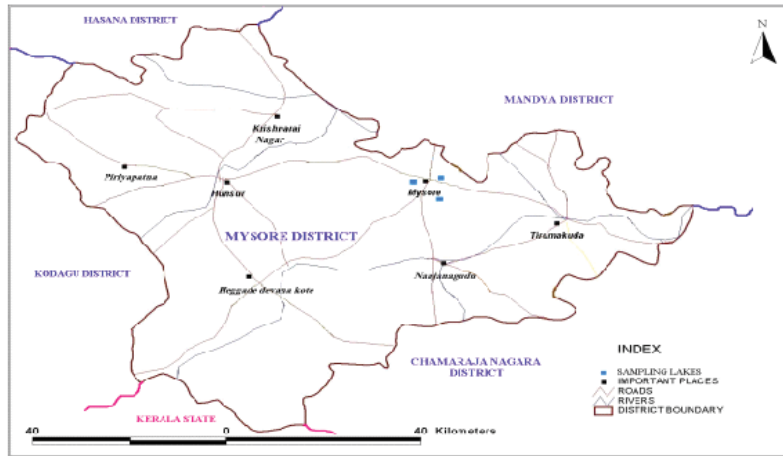


Figure 1: Map of Mysore district to show lakes of this study.

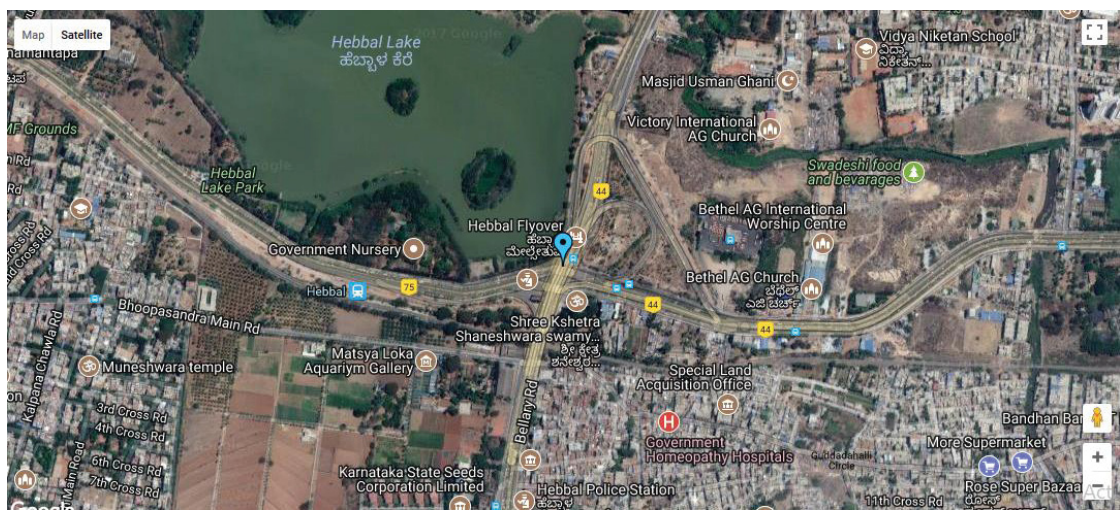


Figure 2: Satellite map of Hebbal Lake.

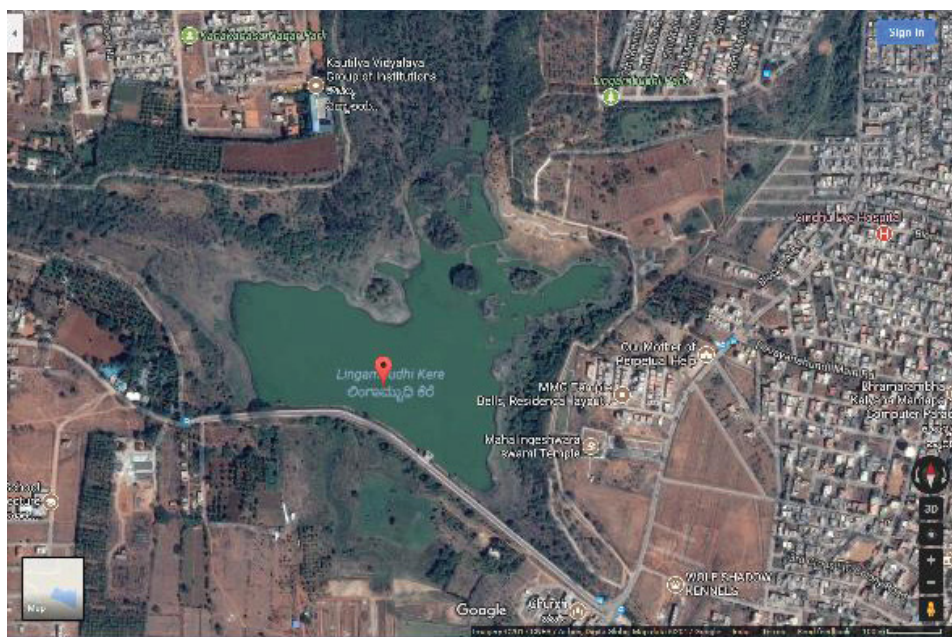


Figure 3: Satellite map of Lingambudhi lake.

macrobenthos preserved in 4% formalin and were identified by using different standard keys [7-11]. Different ecological indices such as Shannon Weaver index for species diversity (H) [12], Simpson index for species dominance (λ) [13,14], β -diversity or heterogeneity index (βd) [15], and species diversity or species richness Index (D) [16], are computed to derive community parameters. Sequential Comparison Index (SCI) is computed [5,17,18], to assess biological effects of pollution. Primary productivity (Gross and Net) of lentic ecosystems was estimated [5].

Results and Discussion

Altogether 17 species of benthic macroinvertebrates recorded from these three lakes (Figures 4-20). Among these fourteen species belong to Arthropoda and remaining three species belong to Annelida. Psephenus, Hydropsyche, Centroptilium, Cinygmula, Ephemerella, Heptagenia, Leptophlebia, Chironomus, Psychoda, Simulium, Tabanus, Stone fly nymph, Damsel nymph classified under arthropoda. Tubifex, Limnodrilus, Lumbriculus placed under annelida. Bilikere lake recorded highest number [15], of species followed by Hebbal lake 13 species and Lingambudi lake 7 species of macrobenthos (Table 1).

Shannon - Weaver Index of species diversity (SWI) (H)

According to results in the table 2, The SWI recorded highest



Figure 4: Tubifex.



Figure 5: Limnodrilus.



Figure 6: Lumbriculus (mud worm).



Figure 7: Psephenus (water pennies).



Figure 8: Lumbriculus (mud worm).



Figure 9: Centroptilium (May fly nymph).



Figure 10: Cinygmula (Stream may fly nymph).



Figure 11: Ephemerella (May fly nymph).



Figure 12: Heptagenia.

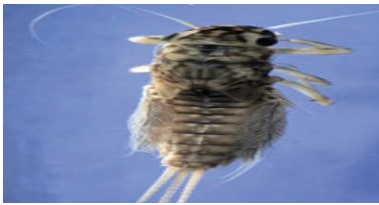


Figure 13: Leptophlebia.



Figure 14: Chironomus larva

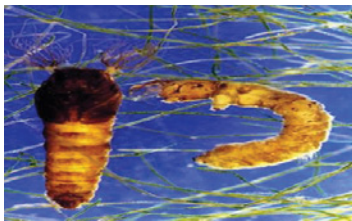


Figure 15: Psychoda (Moth fly larva).



Figure 16: Simulium (Black fly nymph).



Figure 17: Tabanus (Horse fly nymph).



Figure 18: Dragon fly nymph.



Figure 19: Damsel fly nymph.



Figure 20: Stone fly nymph.

in Bilikere (1.12) followed by Hebbal (1.06) and lowest in the Lingambudi lake (0.92). The diversity tends to be higher in communities in stable environments than disturbed conditions [6]. As per the species diversity scale, if SWI is more than 3, indicates clean water, if Shannon Weaver Index is between 1 and 3 indicates moderately polluted water, and SWI is less than 1 indicates heavily polluted water [19,20]. As per this scale,

.Bilikere and Hebbalakes water was moderately polluted but Lingambudi lake water was heavily polluted.

Simpson Dominance Index (SDI) (λ)

Lingambudi lake recorded highest SDI (0.12) followed by Hebbal lake (0.11) and lowest in the Bilikere lake (0.06) (Table 2). Increase in the SDI indicates increase in the pollution load [4]. Some species of macrobenthos are sensitive or intolerant due to increased pollution and eliminated but few species have increased tolerance for adverse conditions [21,22].

β - diversity or species heterogeneity Index (βd)

β - diversity was highest in the Lingambudi (2.43) followed by Hebbal (1.31) and lowest in the Bilikere lake (1.13) (Table 2). The higher value of β - diversity index indicates greater perturbations due to environmental disturbances/pollution stress on these macrobenthos [2,4].

Species Richness Index (SRI)(D)

Species richness index was highest in the Bilikere lake (2.30) followed by Hebbal (1.96) and lowest in the Lingambudi lake (0.99) (Table 2). Higher value of SRI represents higher number of species, lower abundance and lower aquatic pollution [4,29]. As per the diversity index (D) scale, of Staub et al., 1970 (D<1–heavily polluted, D=1–2–moderately polluted, D>2–3–lightly polluted, D>3–4.5–slightly polluted) [23]. The species richness index has been successful to explain convincingly about the pollution levels in these lakes. According to this scale, Bilikere and Hebbalakes were moderately polluted whereas Lingambudi lake was heavily polluted.

Table 1: Diversity and abundance (No/m³) of benthic macroinvertebrates in the three lakes of Mysore city.

Phylum	Class	Genera (17 sps)	Bilikere lake (15 sps)	Hebballake (13 sps)	Lingambudhi lake (7 sps)
Annelida	Oligochaeta	Tubifex	15	25	82
		Limnodrilus	-	10	32
		Lumbriculus	10	62	65
Arthropoda	Coleoptera	Psephenus	40	38	-
		Hydropsyche	38	20	-
	Ephemeroptera	Centroptilium	22	-	-
		Cinygmula	52	22	-
		Ephemerella	45	28	-
		Heptagenia	60	35	-
		Leptophlebia	20	-	-
Diptera	Chironomus	10	85	95	
	Psychoda	05	-	32	
	Simulium	20	35	50	
	Tabanus	-	60	72	
	Plecoptera (order)	Stone fly nymph	25	15	-
	Odonata (Zygoptera)	Damsel fly nymph	30	10	-
	Odonata (anisoptera)	Dragon fly nymph	10	-	-

Table 2: Biodiversity indices of macrobenthos in the three lakes of Mysore city.

	Bilikere lake	Hebbal lake	Lingambudhi lake
Shannon-Weaver index (SWI)	1.12	1.06	0.92
Species richness index (D)	2.30	1.96	0.99
Simpson dominance index (SDI)	0.06	0.11	0.12
β - diversity index (β -d)	1.13	1.31	2.43
Sequential Comparison Index (SCI)	5.84	5.17	2.98
Gross Primary Productivity (GPP) (gC/m ³ /hr)	1.20	1.06	0.85
Net primary Productivity (NPP) (gC/m ³ /hr)	1.0	0.8	0.5
Community Respiration (CR) (gC/m ³ /hr)	0.20	0.26	0.35

Sequential Comparison Index (SCI)

SCI was highest in the Bilikere lake (5.84) followed by Hebbal lake (5.17) and lowest in the Lingambudi lake (2.98). The SCI usually decreases with increasing pollution. This index can be used to detect pollution in different aquatic bodies at the cost of very little time and money. This index can also be used to support the chemical data, wherever necessary. A healthy water body normally has a SCI value greater than 12 (up to 24), whereas polluted streams are generally less than 8 [5,17,18,24].

Primary productivity

The Gross Primary Productivity (GPP) (1.20gC/m³ /hr) and Net Primary Productivity (NPP) (1.00gC/m³ /hr) were highest in the Bilikere lake but Community Respiration (CR) (0.20gC/m³ /hr) was lowest. The Lingambudi lake recorded lowest GPP (0.85gC/m³ /hr) and NPP (0.50gC/m³ /hr) but highest CR (0.35gC/m³ /hr). These results indicate that Lingambudi lake was having higher pollution than other two lakes and Bilikere lake has lower pollution than other two lakes. Pollution of water leads to a reduction in primary productivity. Pollution also affects the production (P)/Respiration (R) ratio, a proper level of which is very essential for the sustenance of the system. In a non-polluted water, the Productivity usually exceeds community respiration, but in organically polluted systems community respiration exceeds Productivity and no organic material is left available for the bioactivity of the system leading to system's impairment [5,6,25,26].

Jaccard index or similarity index (Cj)

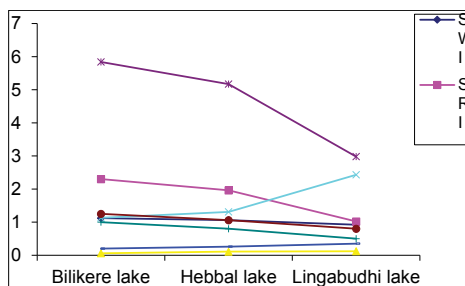
The results (Table 3) revealed that Bilikere and Hebbal lakes pair had highest similarity index (0.65) followed by Hebbal and Lingambudi lakes pair (0.43) and lowest in the Bilikere and Lingambudi lakes pair (0.38) (Table 3). The results suggested that Bilikere and Hebbalakes pair had highest similarity in ecological parameters and hydrographical profile. But Bilikere and Lingambudi lakes pair showed lowest similarity or highest dissimilarity in ecological parameters and hydrographical profile. Calculation of Jaccard index reflects the similarity of hydrographical profile and biotic components between different aquatic bodies. The higher value of Jaccard index reflects higher similarity between two water bodies [27,28].

As pollution increases, Shannon - Weaver Index of species diversity, Species Richness Index, Sequential Comparison

Index, Gross Primary Productivity and Net Primary Productivity decreases, whereas Simpson Dominance Index, β - Diversity or Species Heterogeneity Index and Community Respiration of benthic macroinvertebrates increases in the lentic ecosystems (Graph 1).

Table 3: Matrix showing Jaccard index between different paired lakes in the Mysore city.

	Bilikere lake	Hebbal lake
Bilikere lake	-	-
Hebbal lake	0.65	-
Lingabudhi lake	0.38	0.43



Graph 1: Relationship between different community parameters

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