

Distinctive Characters and Species Composition of Zooplankton Species in Prawn Culture Ponds of Nyaungdone Township, Ayeyawady Region

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Abstract

Species composition and Distinctive characters of zooplankton species collected from six selected prawn culture ponds were investigated in Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Region. A total of 22 species of zooplankton belonging to 20 genera under 11 families were recorded. The collected specimens consisted 59.09 % of arthropod species and 40.91 % of rotifer species. The recorded species represented six groups namely, Rotifer, Cladocera, Copepoda, Calanoida, Ostracoda and Ephemeroptera. Among the recorded species, *Brachionus bidentata* was predominant in the rotifer groups, while among crustaceans, the cyclop species *Cyclops vicinus* and *Cyclops scutifer* were predominant in all studied ponds. The highest concentration (peak period) of zooplankton was found in June and July with higher rainfall, and the lowest was in December. High density of zooplankton is desirable in culture ponds for the successful rearing of post larval prawn to juvenile stages.

Keyword: Species Composition and Distinctive Characters of Zooplankton Species

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