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Sample Article

A Taxonomic Study on Zooplankton Fauna of Kiğı Dam Lake (Bingöl-Turkey)

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Abstract

The present study was conducted to determine zooplankton fauna of Kiğı Dam Lake during September 2012 and August 2013 seasonally. The zooplankton samples were collected by using plankton net with the mesh size of 55µm horizontally and preserved in 4% formaldehyde. Total 22 taxa (16 Rotifera, 4 Cladocera, and 2 Copepoda) were identified in Kiğı Dam Lake.

Keywords: Kiğı Dam Lake, species distribution, zooplankton.

INTRODUCTION

The majority of zooplankton (Copepoda, Cladocera and Rotifera) transform the phytoplankton to animal protein (Çirik and Gökpinar, 1993), and they play a significant role in food chain. It was reported that some species are the indicators of water quality, and eutrophication due to their sensitivity to environmental changes and therefore zooplankton studies on lakes have acquired significant importance (Berzins and Pejler, 1987; Mikschi, 1989).

Many studies were carried on zooplankton in Turkey (Özdemir and Şen, 1994; Göksu et al., 1997, 2005; Saler and Şen, 2002; Bozkurt and Sagat, 2008; Bulut and Saler, 2013a, 2013b; 2014a, 2014b; Saler et al., 2015a, 2015b). No previous research about zooplankton of Kiğı Dam Lake has been recorded. In this study zooplankton species and their seasonal variations of Kiğı Dam Lake have been investigated.

MATERIAL and METHODS

Kiğı Dam Lake was built on Peri Stream between 1997 and 2003. The maximum water capacity is 507.55 hm³ and has surface area 8.35 km² and maximum depth of 168 m (Şimşek, 2016) (Figure.1). The species were identified according to Edmondson (1959), Flössner (1972), Ruttner-Kolisko (1974), Kiefer (1978), Koste (1978), Negrea (1983), Segers (1995), and Einsle (1996).



Figure1. Stations of Kiğı Dam Lake

RESULTS

A total of 22 taxa consisting of 16 Rotifera, 4 Cladocera and 2 Copepoda species were identified in the Dam Lake (Table 2).

The lowest numbers of taxa were recorded in winter at first stations (4 species). Some water quality parameters (pH, dissolved oxygen, and surface water temperature) were measured at study field (Table 3).

Table 3. Seasonal changes of water quality parameters in Kiğı Dam Lake

	Autumn	Winter	Spring	Summer
Water temperature (°C)	16	7.2	17.2	22.5
pH	7.0	6.8	6.9	7.3
D.O (mgL-1)	6.2	7.3	6.0	5.2

DISCUSSION

Zooplankton is known as the indicator of trophic status of aquatic habitats. They are also used to signify the water quality in freshwater systems. *K. cochlearis* and *P. dolichoptera* from Rotifera are indicators of productive habitats, while *N. acuminata* and *N. squamula* are indicators of cold waters (Kolisko, 1974). In Kiğı Dam Lake *K. cochlearis*, *P. dolichoptera* and *N. squamula* were observed.

In Murat River (Bulut and Saler, 2014a), Kalecik Dam Lake (Bulut and Saler, 2013b), Peri Stream (Saler et al., 2011), that were located in the same region with Kiğı Dam Lake, rotifers were recorded as dominant species as to number of individuals and abundance, followed by Cladocera and Copepoda species.

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