



## THE INVESTIGATION ON THE BLUE-GREEN ALGAE OF MOGAN LAKE, BEYTEPE POND AND DELICE RIVER (KIZILIRMAK)

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**ABSTRACT.** In this study Cyanobacteria species of Mogan Lake, Beytepe Pond and Delice River were taxonomically investigated. The cyanobacteria specimens have been collected by monthly intervals from Mogan Lake and Beytepe Pond between October 2010 and September 2011. For the Delice River the laboratory samples which were collected by monthly intervals between July 2007-May 2008 have been evaluated. Totally 15 genus and 41 taxa were identified, 22 species from Mogan lake, 19 species from Beytepe pond and 13 species from Delice river respectively. During the study species like *Planktolyngbya limnetica* and *Aphanocapsa incerta* were frequently observed for all months in Mogan Lake, *Chroococcus turgidus* and *Chroococcus minimus* were abundant in Beytepe Pond while *Kamptomena formosum* was dominant in Delice River. As a result species diversity and density were generally rich in Mogan Lake during fall and summer season while very low in the Delice River during winter season.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) are microscopic bacteria found in freshwater lakes, streams, soil and moistened rocks. Even though they are bacteria, cyanobacteria are too small to be seen by the naked eye, they can grow in colonies which are large enough to see. When algae grows too much it can form “blooms”, which can cause various problems. Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Blooms (CyanoHABs) are dangerous to humans, animals, and, the environment and can lead to a depletion of oxygen in the water and a release of toxins, as well as taste and odour problems [1-3]. Many studies have been done in Mogan lake since 1974 including hydrobiological aspects [4]; seasonal changes of phytoplankton and physico-chemical variables [5]; littoral algae [6]; algae of Mogan lake [7]; plankton composition [8]; phytoplankton communities and water chemicals [9-10]; macrophyte-dominated clear water status [11]; trophic status of the lake [12];

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planktonic algae except Bacillariophyta [13]. Ünal [14] studied the composition of phytoplankton and bentic algae of Beytepe pond between June 1978-December 1979. Akbulut [15] listed 16 cyanobacter species from Beytepe pond. Atıcı et al. [16] observed 11 cyanobacteria species which consisted %16,1of the total algae in the Delice River.

The aim of of the present study is to investigate cyanobacteria in the ecologically different three habitats which were natural lake, man made lake and running waters to identify cyanobacteria species and observe the affect of the environmental variables.

## 2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

### 2.1. Study Area

This study has been carried out in three different water bodies (Mogan Lake, Beytepe Pond and Delice River). Mogan Lake is located 20 km south of Ankara within Gölbaşı province and one of the shallow lake, the area is aproximatelly 6.35 km<sup>2</sup>, average dept is 2-2.5 m and altitude is 972 m. The lake has been formed by tectonic activity. The major inflows to Lake Mogan (Gölbaşı) are Sukesen, Gölcük and Gölova brooks. Lake Mogan is Specially Protected Area since 1990 Akbulut and Akbulut [8] (Figure 1.a). Beytepe Pond is a man-made pond at approximately 970 m above sea level in Ankara province (Figure 1.b). To investigate cyanobacteria of Delice River, laboratory samples which were collected from three station in Kırşehir and Yozgat between July 2007-May 2008 (Project 07D06601001 Hacettepe University Research Fund) have been evaluated (Figure 1.c).

TABLE 1. Study area and sampling locality

Sampling Locality	Lake	Province	Altitude (m)	Coordinates	
1. Station	Mogan	Ankara	976	39°47'17.18"N	32°47'59.44" E
2. Station	Mogan	Ankara	975	39°46'42.19"N	32°47'48.26" E
Sampling Locality	Pond	Province	Altitude (m)	Coordinates	
1. Station	Beytepe	Ankara	982	39°52'52.52 N	32°44'22.90" E
Sampling Locality	River	Province	Altitude (m)	Coordinates	
1. Station	Delice River	Kırşehir	702	39°48.161 N	34°06.139 E
2. Station	Delice River	Yozgat	1154	39°38.414 N	34°28.183 E
3. Station	Delice River	Kırşehir	702	39°42.924 N	34°15.379 E



a. Mogan Lake



b. Beytepe Pond



c. Delice River

FIGURE 1. Sampling Localities a) Mogan Lake, b) Beytepe Pond, c) Delice River.

## 2.2. Sampling

Sampling was carried out from one locality from Beytepe pond and two localities in Mogan Lake one is located in littoral while the other station is located in the open water. Sampling was carried out between October 2011–September 2012. For Delice river laboratory samples from three different localities have been evaluated. During the study, samples were collected with a plankton net of 33µm mesh size and patala sampler (volume capacity of 17 litres). Algae samples were also collected by scraping from stones and macrophyte and the specimens were fixed in 4% formaldehyde.

Dissolved oxygen, conductivity, salinity, pH and temperature were also measured at the sampling stations using field instruments (CONSORT C 933) and Secchi disc transparencies were measured using a 20 cm diameter secchi disc [17,36].

## 3. RESULTS

Dissolved oxygen, temperature, salinity, Conductivity, pH and Secchi Dept were the measured environmental parameters. Dissolved oxygen is an important environmental parameter.

During the study measured dissolved oxygen value was 5,09 mg/l in May 2012 and 15,68 mg/l in March 2012 at the 1. Station in Mogan Lake; 2,21 mg/l in July 2007 and 12,68 mg/l in October 2007 in the Beytepe Pond while 0,86 -10,3 mg/l in Delice River. Temperature was fluctuated between 0,6-27,27 °C in Mogan lake; 0,6-27,2 °C in Beytepe Pond and 1,4-32 °C in Delice river in winter and summer seasons respectively. High dissolved oxygen was recorded during winter season all the study sites, it may be due to low temperature and photosynthetic rate of phytoplankton communities that may results in higher values of dissolved oxygen.

pH value was generally alkali condition in the three habitats and were changed between 7,3 8,6. PH value was increased generally in August in the three sampling area, while slightly decreased in the winter periods. Conductivity and salinity values

were the highest value in Delice River, while the lowest value was measured in Beytepe Pond (Table 2).

Totally 15 genera and 41 taxon were identified from three different sampling locations (Table 3). Among them 22 species were identified in Mogan Lake, 19 species in Beytepe Pond and 13 species in Delice River respectively (Table 4-6). Species list is given according to [www.algaebase.org](http://www.algaebase.org). [18] The number of species were highest in Mogan lake, followed by Beytepe pond and Delice river, respectively. *Chroococcus turgidus*, *Microcystis aeruginosa* and *Oscillatoria tenuis* were the common species which were observed in the three habitat too.

TABLE 2. The min-max and mean values for the physical parameters (Temperature (°C), D.O (mg/l), pH, Cond. (µS/cm), Salinity (‰), Secchi Depth (cm)) measured during the study.

Locality	Temperature (°C)	D.O (mg/l)	pH	Cond.(µS/cm)	Salinity (‰)	Secchi D(cm)
<b>Mogan L.</b>						
	1. Station	1-27,27 14,53	5,09-15,68 9,36	7,7-8,6 8,2	800-1933 1450	0,6-0,9 0,76
2. Station	0,6-27,6 13,83	5,18-14,64 9,17	7,3-8,6 8,3	825-1966 1445	0,4-0,9 0,75	37-69 53,7
	<b>Beytepe P.</b>					
1. Station	0,6-27,2 14,29	2,21-12,68 8,56	7,4-8,2 7,8	110,5-805 683	0-0,4 0,3	64-194 115
	<b>Delice R.</b>					
1. Station	1,4-32 18,9	3,39-10,12 7,79	8,13-8,6 8,3	1100-7000 3277	1,0-5,0 2,6	
	2. Station	2,5-23,6 14,6	1,51-10,3 7,77	8,0-8,5 8,3	800-2100 1277	0,9-1,8 1,5
3. Station	2,83-29 14,7	0,86-10,15 7,93	8,0-8,5 8,2	800-2100 1397	0,9-1,6 1,2	

TABLE 3. Identified taxa of Cyanobacteria

<p><b>Kingdom:</b> Bacteria  <b>Phylum:</b> <a href="#">Cyanobacteria</a>  <b>Classis:</b> Cyanophyceae  <b>Ordo:</b> Chroococcales  <b>Family:</b> Chroococcaceae  Genus: Chroococcus  1. <i>Chroococcus turgidus</i>  2. <i>Limnococcus limneticus</i>  3. <i>Chroococcus minimus</i>  4. <i>Chroococcus minor</i>  <b>Family:</b> Microcystaceae  Genus: Microcystis  1. <i>Microcystis aeruginosa</i>  2. <i>Microcystis flos-aquae</i>  <b>Family:</b> Gomphosphaeriaceae  Genus: <i>Gomphosphaeria</i>  1. <i>Gomphosphaeria aponina</i>  <b>Ordo:</b> <a href="#">Synechococcales</a>  <b>Family:</b> <a href="#">Merismopediaceae</a>  SubFamily: <a href="#">Merismopedioideae</a>  Genus: Merismopedia  1. <i>Merismopedia glauca</i>  2. <i>Merismopedia minima</i>  3. <i>Merismopedia punctata</i>  4. <i>Merismopedia tenuissima</i>  <b>Ordo:</b> <a href="#">Synechococcales</a>  <b>Family:</b> <a href="#">Merismopediaceae</a>  Genus: Aphanocapsa  1. <i>Aphanocapsa grevillea</i>  2. <i>Aphanocapsa incerta</i>    <b>Family:</b> Pseudanabaenaceae  Genus: Pseudanabaena  1. <i>Pseudanabaena limnetica</i>  <b>Ordo:</b> Oscillatoriales  <b>Family:</b> Oscillatoriaceae  Genus: Oscillatoria  1. <i>Oscillatoria sp.</i>  2. <i>Oscillatoria amphibia</i>  3. <i>Oscillatoria limosa</i>  4. <i>Oscillatoria princeps</i>  5. <i>Oscillatoria tenuis</i></p>	<p>6. <i>Phormidium breve</i>  7. <i>Planktothrix rubescens</i>  8. <i>Planktothrix prolifica</i>  9. <i>Pseudoanabaena limnetica</i>  Genus: <i>Lyngbya</i>  1. <i>Lyngbya sp.</i>  2. <i>Lyngbya sp.</i>  3. <i>Lyngbya sp.</i>  4. <i>Oscillatoria major</i>  5. <i>Planktolingbya limnetica</i>  6. <i>Planktolingbya concorta</i>  Genus: Plectonema  1. <i>Microseira wollei</i> (<i>Plectonema wollei</i>)  Family: Phormidiaceae  Genus: Phormidium  1. <i>Kamptonema formosum</i> (<i>S: Oscillatoria formosa</i>)  2. <i>Phormidium ambiguum</i>  <b>Ordo:</b> Nostocales  Family: Aphanizomenonaceae  Genus: Anabaenopsis  1. <i>Anabaenopsis elenkinii</i>  <b>Family:</b> Rivulariaceae  Genus: Calothrix  1. <i>Calothrix sp.</i>  Family: Nostocaceae  Genus: Anabaena  1. <i>Anabaena catenula</i>  2. <i>Dolichospermum affine</i> (<i>S: Anabaena affinis</i>)  3. <i>Dolichospermum flos-aqua</i>  <b>Ordo:</b> <a href="#">Spirulinales</a>  <b>Family:</b> <a href="#">Spirulinaceae</a>  Genus: <a href="#">Spirulina</a>  1. <i>GlaucoSPIra laxissima</i> (<i>S: Spirulina laxissima</i>)  2. <i>Spirulina major</i>  3. <i>Spirulina nordstedtii</i>  <b>Ordo:</b> Pseudanabaenales  <b>Family:</b> Pseudanabaenaceae  Genus: <i>Leptolyngbya</i>  1. <i>Leptolyngbya notata</i> (<i>S: Plectonema notatu</i>)</p>
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TABLE 5. Seasonal distribution of the species in Beytepe pond.

Species	Sept. 2011	Nov. 2011	Dec. 2011	Jan. 2012	Feb. 2012	Marc 2012	April 2012	May 2012	June 2012	July 2012	Agust. 2012	Sept 2012
<i>Aphanocapsa grevillei</i>					+				+			
<i>Microcystis aeruginosa</i>	+									+		
<i>Microcystis flos-aquae</i>	+							+			+	
<i>Chroococcus turgidus</i>	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
<i>Chroococcus minor</i>	+	+	+						+	+	+	+
<i>Chroococcus minimus</i>	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Merismopedia tenuissima</i>	+									+		
<i>Merismopedia punctata</i>										+	+	
<i>Oscillatoria limosa</i>									+	+		+
<i>Pseudoanabaena limnetica</i>		+					+		+	+		
<i>Phormidium breve</i>						+						
<i>Oscillatoria amphibia</i>								+	+			
<i>Planktothrix prolifica</i>	+					+	+		+	+		
<i>Oscillatoria tenuis</i>	+						+	+	+			
<i>Anabaena catenula</i>										+		
<i>Calothrix sp.</i>	+					+				+		
<i>Oscillatoria major</i>											+	+
<i>Lyngbya sp.</i>						+	+	+	+	+	+	
<i>Planktolyngbya limnetica</i>							+	+	+			+



TABLE 6. SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE SPECIES IN DELICE RIVER.

Species	July 2007	Aug st 2007	Sept. 2007	Oct. 2007	Nov. 2007	Dec. 2007	Jan. 2008	Feb. 2008	Mach 2008	April 2008	May 2008
<i>Microcystis aeruginosa</i>	+		+	+	+						+
<i>Merismopedia glauca</i>	+			+					+		
<i>Chroococcus turgidus</i>	+			+					+		+
<i>Oscillatoria major</i>	+			+	+						+
<i>Oscillatoria princeps</i>	+				+						+
<i>Oscillatoria tenuis</i>					+						
<i>Kamptonema formosum</i>	+	+		+	+					+	+
<i>Phormidium ambiguum</i>	+			+	+					+	+
<i>Leptolyngbya notata</i>					+						
<i>Gomphosphaeria sp.</i>											
<i>Spirulina nordstedtii</i>	+	+			+					+	+
<i>Microseira wollei</i>		+	+		+						
<i>Planktolyngbya concorta</i>											

#### 4. DISCUSSION

The water temperature is of vital importance for living things in an aquatic environment. The water temperature in lentic habitats varies depending on the air temperature, the amount of dissolved matter, depth, surface area and the geographic location of the habitat [19] In recent years, the discharge of domestic, agricultural and industrial wastes into aquatic ecosystems has led to increased nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus in aquatic habitats. This situation is known to increase primer production and especially the blue-green cyanobacteria population in the waters, thus altering the structure of phytoplankton communities [20-23]. Many problems may arise if blue green algae increase excessively due to eutrophication in aquatic systems. Cyanobacterial blooms (CBs) are generally triggered by eutrophic conditions due to anthropogenic nutrient inputs to local waters (wastewater or

contaminated waters). During the bloom, some species produce toxic secondary metabolites (cyanotoxins) that are dangerous for humans and animals [24]. Some of the cyanobacter species produce neurotoxins which are harmful to biota [25]. *Microcystis aeruginosa* which is one of the important toxin producing algae and could be harmful when rich the high numbers in the water bodies [26]. In addition *Phormidium* genera can produce Anatoxin-a; *Lyngbya* can produce Saxitoxsin, Dermatoxin, Lyngbyatoxin-a and Aplysiatoxin [27].

According to Manav and Yerli, Mogan is one of the eutrophic lake character [12]. The temperature was increased from May to september and reached to maxima in July. Dissolved oxygen levels exhibited an inverse relationship with temperature. Alkaline waters promotes high primary productivity [28]. During the study conductivity was high in January and pH was between 7,3-8,6 which was suitable for the growing cyanobacteria.

Akbulut and Akbulut [8] observed 15 cyanobacteria species from this lake while 22 taxa have been listed in our study and population density were increased generally in fall and summer season. *Chroococcus sp.*, *Merismopedia minima* and *Microcystis aeruginosa* were the common species especially *Chroococcus turgidus* comprised %70,27 of the population in May and October when the water temperature was between 14-15 °C. *Lyngbya sp.* was also increased at the same period too. Many researchers have reported that cyanobacteria are predominant during summer and early autumn [29]. This situation has also been observed in our work.

During the study 17 species and 2 genera have been observed from Beytepe pond while 5 species have been listed in the previous work and *Chroococcus*, *Oscillatoria* were the common genera Ünal [14]. According to the our results *Chroococcus*, *Oscillatoria*, *Microcystis*, and *Lyngbya* were the main taxa especially *Chroococcus minutus* was the most abundant species.

Although diversity was high in May, density was linearly increased in November (%60,06) and in September (%53,75). Temperature levels fluctuated between 6,4 -20,4 °C from September to November and pH changed between 7.8 and 7.9. During the study benthic taxa were slightly increased in April 2012 composed %16,41 of total population.

Delice River, is one of the branches of Kızılırmak River, which is the longest river of Turkey (1,355 km) and used for irrigation purposes in agricultural areas [30]. There are various studies on this stream ecosystem [31-35]. Water current is one the most important limiting parameter in the running waters. Sediment load increases in the rivers, the growth of phytoplankton decreases. During the study at least number of species recorded from river to compare lentic habitats. Atıcı [16] observed 11 cyanobacter taxa from Delice River and population composed %16,1 of total algae. According to this study *Chroococcus turgidus* and *Merismopedia elegans* were the common species. In our study 12 species and 1 genera have been identified among them *Chroococcus turgidus* and *Oscillatoria formosa* were the common species.

The physico-chemical parameters are the major factors that control the dynamics and structure of the phytoplankton of aquatic ecosystem (37-38). According to the

results, there was no dangerous situation in terms of cyanobacteria bloom in the examined three habitats but it is beneficial to carry out monitoring studies of algae population together with major elements especially in the lentic habitats.

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