

PROTOZOA OF RICE FIELDS IN SRI LANKA - A PRELIMINARY MICROBIOLOGICAL AND ECOLOGICAL STUDY

Sriya Kularatne and P. L. D. Waidyasekara

*(Department of Biological Sciences, University of Sri Lanka,
Vidyodaya Campus.*

Soils and Supernatant water from rice-fields from the dry (Ambalantota) and the wet (a) Gangodawila (b) (Bombuwala, Kalutara) low country and from the wet hill country (Pilimatalawa) of Sri Lanka have been examined. The Protozoa and Bacteria in them were collected and isolated by a special technique and later maintained in laboratory culture for identification and studies of population growth. The technique used and the results of this comparative study are described.

Seasonal variation in the Protozoa have also been studied; and an attempt made to correlate these with variations in environmental factors like temperature, pH, moisture content, organic matter content and bacteria content.

(This investigation was supported by a National Science Council grant).