

## SECTION D

### D - 21      **STUDIES ON TAXONOMY AND ECOLOGY OF THE HOLOTHURIANS IN JAFFNA LAGOON**

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A monthly survey of sampling of holothurians in the Jaffna lagoon was made and the samples collected were identified, evaluated for their abundancy and the ecology of each species studied.

Ten species of holothurians were identified. *Holothuria scabra* was the most abundant throughout the year and *H. impatiens* was found to be the rarest. *H. scabra* was found in bottom sand at various depths of water. The other species were found to be scattered mostly in shallow waters, but *H. spinifera* and *H. impatiens* were always found in deep waters.

It appears that the ecology of the Jaffna lagoon favours the growth and the abundance of *H. scabra*.