D-01: Succession of aquatic macrophytes in water bodies where salvinia has been biologically controlled

S M Solangaarachchi, W D M S K Perera
(Dept of Botany, Univ of Kelaniya)

Mattegoda, Boralesgamuwa and Lunuwila tanks into which the weevil, *Cyrtobagous salvinia* had been introduced to control salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*) were selected for the study of how the community changed following biological control of salvinia.

Aquatic macrophytes were collected and identified. The change in plant communities was studied by estimating the frequency and cover of each species. Monthly sampling was carried out from 1991 to 1993. Among the macryphytes *Salvinia molesta*, *Nymphea* spp. and *Nelumbo* spp. were the most abundant.

Quantitative results revealed that salvinia prevailed throughout the study period. Community changes were dependent on a variety of factors of which, types of species present, rainfall, duration of the drought period and human interference were the main ones.

The presence of salvinia throughout the period implied that the weed had regenerated after its control by biological agents. It was concluded that salvinia had not been successfully controlled in the above water bodies though successful results had been reported for some water bodies.

Financial assistance from NARESA is acknowledged.