

D-53: Species composition and population dynamics of zooplankton in Randenigala reservoir

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Plankton sampling was carried out from May to November 1992. Vertical and horizontal sampling was done using a closing type plankton net, once a month, near the dam and in 8 sub stations to obtain vertical and horizontal distribution of zooplankton in the reservoir.

Twelve species of rotifers, 7 species of cladocerans and 4 species of copepods were recorded. The most abundant taxonomic zooplankton group was copepoda which represented 90% of the whole zooplankton population, during some months. The rotifers and then cladocerans dominated the population secondarily.

The developing stages of zooplankton were also reported at all depths. However the highest densities of both adult and their developing stages were observed in the euphotic zone.

The pulses of copepods were recorded from August to September and densities of eggs increased from June to July and rapid decline within August to September was observed. Food availability to them showed a close relationship with this population pattern.