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# Influence of environmental parameters on the phytoplankton distribution in clambeds in atropical estuary

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**ABSTRACT :** Influence of environmental parameters on the phytoplankton distribution in clambeds in atropical estuary was studied from August, 2007 to July, 2008 in Mulki estuary. Hydrographical parameters exhibited a significant effect on the distribution of phytoplankton in the clambeds. The total phytoplankton numbers varied from 5,62,518 no./m<sup>3</sup> to 16,22,660no./m<sup>3</sup>. Sixteen different species of diatoms, 15 species of green algae and 4 species of dinoflagellates were reported from the study area. Diatoms formed the bulk of the phytoplankters with a maximum of 3243025 no./m<sup>3</sup>.

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