



RESEARCH PAPER

Seasonal distribution of phytoplankton in river Gauthami-Godavari, Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract : The present study was investigated to evaluate the seasonal variability of phytoplankton species at the places Vriddha and Bhairavapalem along the stretch of river Godavari in Konaseema region, Andhra Pradesh. A total of 123 phytoplankton species were identified during the study period (2015-2017) in which diatoms contributes 91, dinoflagellates -26, Blue Green Algae-1 chlorophyceae-4. Dissimilarity in phytoplankton species composition was noticed in all seasons. Diatoms found as the dominant prevailing phytoplankton group in all seasons in terms of number of species and abundance. Diatom species viz., *Coscinodiscus* sp., *Thalassiothrix* sp., *Skeletonema costatus* were ubiquitous off Godavari estuary throughout the year. Diatoms are the most abundant group dominated in late winter and early spring bloom whereas dinoflagellates, dominate during the late spring blooms.

Key Words : Phytoplankton, Nutrients, Godavari river

View Point Article : Prasanthi, N., Swamy, A.V.V.S. and Murty, K.N. (2023). Seasonal distribution of phytoplankton in river Gauthami-Godavari, Andhra Pradesh. *Internat. J. agric. Sci.*, **19** (1) : 185-192, DOI:10.15740/HAS/IJAS/19.1/185-192. Copyright@2023: Hind Agri-Horticultural Society.

Article History : Received : 18.09.2022; Revised : 04.11.2022; Accepted : 05.12.2022

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