

LISTS OF SPECIES

Zooplankton of an urban stretch, Itapecerica river, Divinópolis, Minas Gerais, Brazil

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Abstract: The aim of this project was to study the zooplanktonic composition of the Itapecerica river in its 29km urban section across the city of Divinópolis, state of Minas Gerais. Eight sampling points were established within this section, six in lotic and two in lentic waters. Samples were taken monthly from March/2002 to February/2003 totalizing 84 samples. A plankton net with a mesh opening size of 35 µm was utilized for sampling. Temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen and electrical conductivity measurements were also taken during sampling. 101 taxa were registered, of which 35 were Protozoa, 52 Rotifera, 10 Cladocera and four Copepoda. The number of taxa was considered high when compared to similar studies. Among the richest group, rotifers, the most expressed genera were *Lecane* and *Brachionus*. This study recorded the first appearance of the exotic species *Kellicottia bostoniensis* (Rousselet 1908) for the sub-basin of Itapecerica river.

Introduction

The diversity of plankton in freshwater has been poorly studied and is less well known than marine environments. As a result, the Diversitas Program of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), recognizing the existence of this gap, elected freshwater biodiversity as a special target for studies of biodiversity in the coming years (Rocha 2005).

In Brazil, limnological studies are relatively recent, and still verify the composition of the zooplankton community in our aquatic environments, especially lotic environments. Scientific studies are scarce in the area surrounding municipality of Divinópolis, state of Minas Gerais, southeastern Brazil, limited to a few reports by IGAM (Minas Gerais Water Management Institute).

Plankton is the community that lives suspended in water and is characterized by its small size, ranging from few micrometers to few millimeters. According to their nature, they are distinguished into three categories: bacterioplankton, phytoplankton and zooplankton (Sipaúba-Tavares 1995).

The zooplankton community of freshwater environments is composed mainly by rotifers,

microcrustaceans (cladocerans and copepods) and protozoa (Hutchinson 1967), of which rotifers generally presents the largest diversity of species (Ruttner-Kolisko 1974; Vasquez 1984).

According to Maia-Barbosa et al. (2006) knowledge of zooplankton species has been a powerful tool to assess changes in aquatic ecosystems caused by impacting activities: introduction of exotic species, silting and contamination by industrial and domestic sewage, among others. The author also emphasizes the importance of work involving survey of species from rivers in the state of Minas Gerais.

The aim of this project was to study the zooplanktonic composition of an urban stretch of the Itapecerica river. It is common sense that the best knowledge of the structure of a functioning urban biotope is of a vital significance to its best use and occupation.

Materials and Methods

Study Site

The Itapecerica river is a tributary within the sub-basin of the Pará river, one of the most important basins of the São Francisco river. The river rises in the city of Itapecerica, with the name of *Rio Vermelho*, and past the junction of the rivers Gama

and Santo Antônio, it is named Itapecerica river. The river goes through three municipalities crossing Divinópolis in a stretch of 29 km.

The municipality of Divinópolis, state of Minas Gerais, southeastern Brazil (20°08'21"S, 44°53'17" W) in the upper San Francisco region has its climate classified as Cwa mesothermic, characterized by a dry (April to September) and a rainy season (October to March) (Ometo 1981).

The Itapecerica river, crossing the urban area of Divinópolis, serves as outlet for domestic and industrial sewage. Besides polluting the Itapecerica river, Divinópolis increases the degree of pollution of the Pará river, one of the tributaries of the São Francisco river. The domestic, industrial and hospital sewage dumped in the river causes numerous outbreaks of various diseases. (Brasil 2008).

Data Analysis

Samples were collected in eight points of the Itapecerica river (six lotic points and two lentic points) monthly, from April 2002 to March 2003. In lentic environments a vertical drag was carried with a plankton net of 35 µm mesh size. One hundred liters of water were filtered in each lotic environment using a bucket of 10 liters of capacity and then concentrated on plankton net of 35 µm mesh size. This sampling was made on the surface, approximately 50 cm from the margin. After filtration and conditioned in polyethylene bottles, the samples were stained with Rose Bengal and after 15 minutes they were fixated with 4 % formalin. Analysis was done by taxonomic identification of the organisms whenever possible to the species level. Those reviews were supported by the following taxonomic keys: Koste (1978), Loureiro (1997), Lee et al. (1996) and Ogden and Hedley (1980).

Results and Discussion

The zooplankton community of the Itapecerica river was represented by 101 taxa: 35 Protozoa, 52 Rotifera, 10 Cladocera and four Copepoda. In studies by Barany et al. (2002); Serafin-Júnior et al. (2006) the number of zooplankton species found in longer stretches of rivers than in the present study was lower than the 101 taxa found by us in the 29 km stretch. This is probably due to the heterogeneity of collection environments: stretches with higher and lower flow, and stretches of stagnant water puddles near the margin and above the dams.

Temperature and pH values in Itapecerica river followed seasonal patterns. Electrical conductivity had an increase of its values in places with anthropic disturbance. The opposite happened with the dissolved oxygen. (Table 1).

The species *Kellicottia bostoniensis* (Rousselet 1908) (Rotifera: Monogononta: Brachionidae) found in the Itapecerica river is considered an invasive species. According to José de Paggi (2002) the species was first recorded in South America in the 1990's, in the Reservoir of Segredo, Iguaçú river. This is the first record for Itapecerica river, sub-basin of the river Pará. The record of this species is extremely important for monitoring the progression of its invasion in the country. According to Landa et al. (2002) the species is typical of eutrophic environments.

In the work of Paggi and José de Paggi (1990); Lansac-Tôha et al. (1992); Kobayashi et al. (1998); Salibián (2006) and Serafin-Junior et al. (2006), the rotifers are the most representative in the composition of rivers. The same was found in Itapecerica river with 53 representatives of the group Rotifera. The most abundant genus was *Lecane* (13), followed by *Brachionus* (7) and *Trichocerca* (6). Lansac-Tôha et al. (1997) in their studies in the floodplain of the river Paraná, obtained similar results, with greater number of the genus *Lecane*, followed by *Trichocerca* and *Brachionus*. Genera *Brachionus*, *Lecane*, *Lepadella* and *Trichocerca* have a great number of species in tropical fauna, as observed by Lucinda (2003). The pattern of richness found (greater number of rotifers, followed by cladocerans and copepods) was also found by Neves et al. (2001) in a lotic environment.

A list of species for the Itapecerica river is provided. Lists are an useful tool to monitoring changes in composition of the plankton as anthropic influence may increase through time.

Zooplankton species of the Itapecerica river, Divinópolis, state of Minas Gerais:

PHYLUM Sarcomastigophora

CLASS Lobosea

ORDER Arcellinida

FAMILY Arcellidae

Arcella conica Deflandre, 1926

Arcella costata Ehrenberg, 1847

Arcella dentate Ehrenberg, 1838

Arcella discoides Ehrenberg, 1871

Arcella gibbosa Pénard, 1893

Arcella hemisphaerica Perty, 1852

Arcella megastoma Pénard, 1913

Arcella vulgaris Ehrenberg, 1830

FAMILY Difflogiidae

Lesquereusia spiralis (Ehrenberg) Butschli, 1880

Difflogia acuminata Ehrenberg, 1838

Difflogia corona Wallich, 1864

Difflogia globulosa Dujardin, 1837

Difflogia limnetica Pénard, 1912

Difflogia lobostoma Leidy, 1877

Difflogia oblonga Ehrenberg, 1838

Difflogia pyriformis Ehrenberg, 1838

Difflogia urceolata Carter, 1864

Netzelia oviformis (Cash, 1909) Odgen, 1979

FAMILY Centropyxidae

Centropyxis aculeata (Ehrenberg, 1830) Stein, 1859

Centropyxis constricta Ehrenberg, 1841

Centropyxis ecornis Ehrenberg, 1841

CLASS Filosea

ORDER Gromiida

FAMILY Euglyphidae

Euglypha acanthophora Ehrenberg, 1841

Euglypha laevis Perty, 1849

FAMILY Cyphoderridae

Cyphoderia ampulla Ehrenberg, 1840

PHYLUM Ciliophora

CLASS Spirotrichea

ORDER Heterotrichida

FAMILY Stentoridae

Stentor sp.

ORDER Oligotrichida

FAMILY Halteriidae

Halteria sp.

ORDER Stichotrichida

FAMILY Urostylidae

Urostyla sp.

CLASS Litostomatea

ORDER Haptorida

FAMILY Didiniidae

Monodinium sp.

CLASS Nassophorea

ORDER Peniculida

FAMILY Lembadionidae

Lembadion sp.

FAMILY Lembadionidae

Paramecium sp.

CLASS Oligohymenophorea

ORDER Scuticociliatida

FAMILY Pleuronematidae

Pleuronema sp.

ORDER Sessilida

FAMILY Epistylididae

Campanella umbellaria Linnaeus, 1767

Epistylis sp.

FAMILY Vorticellidae

Vorticella sp.

ORDER Mobilida

FAMILY Trichodinidae

Trichodina sp.

PHYLUM Aschelminthes

CLASS Rotifera

ORDER Ploimida

FAMILY Brachionidae

Brachionus angularis Gosse, 1851

Brachionus bidentata Anderson, 1889

Brachionus calyciflorus Pallas, 1766

Brachionus dolabratus Harring, 1915

Brachionus falcatus Zacharias, 1898

Brachionus forficula Wierzejski, 1891

Brachionus patulus O.F. Muller, 1786

Platyias quadricornis Ehrenberg, 1832

Keratella americana Carlin, 1943

Keratella cochlearis Gosse, 1851

Keratella lenzi Hauer, 1953

Keratella tropica Apstein, 1907

Kellicottia bostoniensis Rousselet, 1908

Anuraeopsis fissa Gosse, 1851

FAMILY Euchlanidae

Euchlanis dilatata Ehrenberg, 1832

Dipleuchlanis sp.

FAMILY Trichotriidae

Macrochaetus sericus Thorpe, 1893

FAMILY Colurellidae

Colurella uncinata O.F. Muller, 1773

Lepadella ovalis O.F. Muller, 1786

Lepadella patella O.F. Muller, 1786

FAMILY Lecanidae

Lecane arcuata Bryce, 1891

Lecane bulla Gosse, 1886

Lecane hastata Murray 1913

Lecane glypta Harring & Myers, 1926

Lecane hamata Stockes, 1896

Lecane leontina Turner, 1892

Lecane levistyla Olofsson, 1917

Lecane lunaris Ehrenberg, 1832

Lecane ovalis Jakubski, 1914

Lecane quadridentata Ehrenberg, 1892

Lecane scutata H.&M., 1926

Lecane stenroosi Meissner, 1908

Lecane sp.

FAMILY Proalidae

Proales sp.

FAMILY Notommatidae

Cephalodella gibba Ehrenberg, 1838

Notommata copeus De Beauchamp, 1908

Notommata sp.

FAMILY Trichocercidae

Trichocerca longiseta Schrank, 1802

Trichocerca minuta Olofsson, 1918

Trichocerca pussila Lauterborn 1898

Trichocerca similis Wierzejski 1893

Trichocerca stylata Gosse 1851

Trichocerca sp.

FAMILY Synchaetidae

Synchaeta sp.

Polyarthra dolichoptera Idelson, 1925

Polyarthra vulgaris Carlin, 1943

FAMILY Asplanchnidae

Asplanchna priodonta Gosse, 1850

ORDER Gnesiotrocha

FAMILY Testudinellidae

Testudinella patina Hermann, 1783

FAMILY Conochilidae

Conochilus dossuarius Hudson, 1875

FAMILY Hexarthridae

Hexarthra intermedia Hauer 1953

FAMILY Filiniidae

Filinia longiseta Ehrenberg, 1834

Filinia terminalis Plate, 1886

PHYLUM Arthropoda

CLASS Crustacea

ORDER Ctenopoda

FAMILY Sididae

Diaphanosoma birgei Korinek, 1981

FAMILY Daphnidae

Ceriodaphnia cornuta Sars, 1885

Ceriodaphnia rigaudi Richard, 1894

FAMILY Moinidae

Moina minuta Hansen, 1899

FAMILY Bosminidae

Bosmina hagmani Stingelin, 1904

Bosmina longirostris O.F. Muller, 1785

Bosmina sp.

FAMILY Macrotrichidae

Macrothrix sp.

FAMILY Chydoridae

Acroperus sp.

Alona sp.

ORDER Cyclopoida

FAMILY Cyclopidae

Thermocyclops decipiens Kiefer, 1929

Thermocyclops minutus Lowndes, 1934

ORDER Calanoida

FAMILY Diaptomidae

Notodiaptomus sp.

ORDER Harpacticoida

FAMILY Canthocamptidae

Attheyella fuhrmani Thieband, 1914

Table 1. Physical chemical parameters of the Itapecerica river, Divinópolis, state of Minas Gerais, southeastern Brazil.

Variable	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
Electrical conductivity (25 °C $\bar{\text{A}}\text{mho/cm-1}$)	21.0	70.0	41.7
pH	6.1	9.2	7.3
Water temperature (°C)	16.0	28.0	23.4
Dissolved oxygen (mg/L)	3.3	8.1	6.1

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