

## DIURNAL VERTICAL MIGRATION OF SOME CLADOCERANS IN RELATION TO THE PHYSICO-CHEMICAL FACTORS IN A FISH POND

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### Abstract

Diurnal vertical migration of four genera of cladocerans, namely *Diaphanosoma* sp., *Daphnia* sp., *Moina* sp. and *Bosmina* sp., during March to December, 2007 showed that the number of *Diaphanosoma* sp. was 501 units/l in the surface layers, 172 units/l in the middle layers and 190 units/l in the bottom layers. The yearly number of *Daphnia* sp. in surface, middle and bottom layers was 362 units/l, 46 units/l and 189 units/l respectively. In surface, bottom and middle layers, the number of *Moina* sp. was 159, 71 and 32 units/l, respectively. *Bosmina* sp. was 78 units/l in surface, 31 units/l in the middle and 33 units/l in the bottom layers. The number of *Diaphanosoma* sp., *Daphnia* sp., *Moina* sp., *Bosmina* sp., were 455, 149, 259 and 358 units/l, respectively in the morning, 63, 176, 142, 43 units/l at noon and 107, 55, 28, 59 units/l, respectively in the evening. Throughout the study period the cladocerans were always abundant near the surface during morning and evening. Among the factors responsible for the diurnal movement of cladoceran, light played the most important factor. The relationship between the physico-chemical factors and the cladoceran occurrence in the pond was also explored.

### Introduction

Plankton is the major nutritional source available from nature which is the measure of the degree of organic enrichment of water. A pond with good water quality will produce more healthy fish than a pond with poor water quality. So, the production of fish in any water body depends largely on the availability of food organisms. Plankton plays the major role as fish food because freshwater fishes are chiefly plankton feeders. Zooplankton is the link in the food chain between the primary producers and the nektonic as well as benthic animals in higher trophic levels. The role of plankton has a direct effect on the well being of fishes. The change of food organisms of fishes throughout the year is primarily due to the change in the composition of food organism at different seasons.<sup>(1,2)</sup> It is well-known that zooplankton exhibits diurnal and vertical movements in response to light. The cause of their movement in different layers at different time of the day are rather difficult to determine as there may be multiplicity of

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factors. There are numerous exceptions to any general rule regarding vertical distribution of zooplanktonic organisms. The zooplankters generally avoid strong light and recede to lower regions. Ganapati<sup>(3)</sup> investigated in detail the hydrobiology of three summer pools with particular reference to the diurnal variations in temperature and the dissolved oxygen content of biological significance. Cushing<sup>(4)</sup> observed the vertical migration of planktonic crustaceans. Borecky<sup>(5)</sup> made a conclusion on the number of cladocerans depending upon the concentration of pH, carbonate ions and bicarbonate ions which were closely related with photosynthetic activity. He recorded the greatest number of cladoceran in a lake during the highest photosynthetic rate. George<sup>(6)</sup> investigated the diurnal changes in plankton during typical summer condition in shallow waters of North India. Krishnamoorthi and Vesweswara<sup>(7)</sup> made a hydrobiological investigation of the Gandhisagar at Nagpur with diurnal variation in plankton<sup>(8)</sup> observed the diurnal variation of plankton in the pond at Aligarh. Michael<sup>(9)</sup> investigated the diurnal variation in physico-chemical factors and zooplankton on the surface layers of three freshwater ponds Saha *et al.*<sup>(10)</sup> studied the seasonal and diurnal variation in physico-chemical and biological conditions of a perennial freshwater pond in Bangladesh. Singh *et al.*<sup>(11)</sup> studied the seasonal and diurnal variations in terms of physico-chemical conditions of water and plankton in lentic water of Riha reservoir in India. Bhuiyan and Nessa<sup>(12,13)</sup> and Bhuiyan *et al.*<sup>(14)</sup> studied the physico-chemical condition, occurrence and migration of some cladocerans in a pond of Rajshahi University campus in Bangladesh. They reported that cladocerans were the major group and they showed significant correlation between the cladocerans and physico-chemical parameters. The present study deals with the diurnal vertical migration of cladocerans in relation to the physico-chemical factors in a fish pond in Rajshahi of Bangladesh.

### Materials and Methods

The present investigation was conducted in a fish pond situated in the north side of Rajshahi University campus for a period of 10 months starting from March to December 2007. The pond covers an area of 3,096 m<sup>2</sup> with an average depth of 3.8 m. The water was clearly visible, no bloom seen and it received sunlight throughout the period of investigation.

Samples were collected at weekly interval in morning (06 h), noon (12 h) and evening (18 h) from surface, middle and bottom layers of the pond. Physical parameter such as air and water temperature was measured using centigrade thermometer. Chemical factors such as CO<sub>2</sub>, dissolved oxygen (DO), carbonate and bicarbonate alkalinity were measured by titration method following the Winkler's method (APHA 1976) and also by a water quality checker (20 A, TOA-Japan). pH was measured by a digital pH meter (pH Tester<sup>2</sup><sup>TM</sup>) made in Singapore. Plankton was collected by a plankton net of No. 20 count bolting cloth and the specimens were preserved in Transeau's solution. The cladocerans

were identified.<sup>(15-18)</sup> The numerical assessment of cladocerans was done by Sedgewick-Rafter counting cell.

**Results and Discussion**

Some selected physico-chemical factors of the water of the pond were studied (Figs 1-2).

Air temperature varied from 36.1°C (May) to 11.5°C (December). Yearly mean of air temperature was found as 27.24°C ± 3.85.

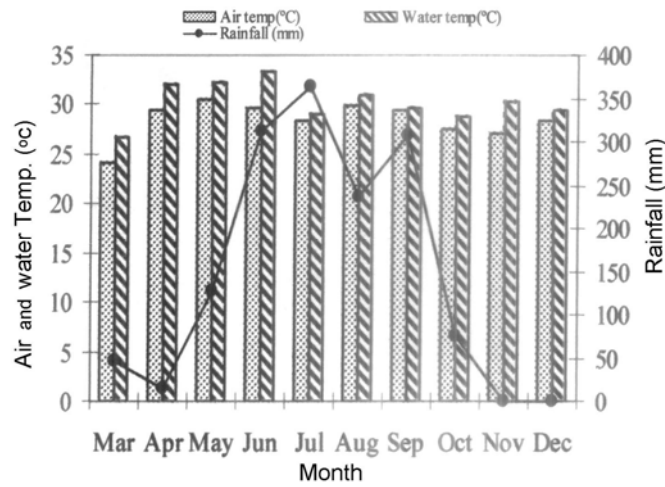


Fig. 1. Monthly fluctuation of physical parameters of the study pond in 2007.

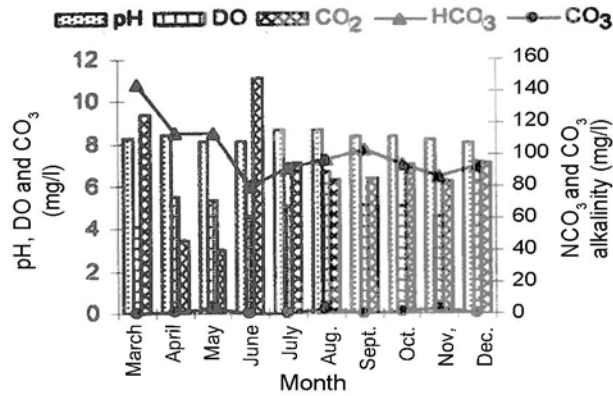


Fig. 2. Monthly fluctuation of chemical parameters of the study pond in 2007.

Water temperature varied from 36°C (June) to 17.01°C (December). The highest morning, noon and evening mean water temperature was recorded as 3 1.54, 34.68 and 32.85°C. in the month of June and the lowest mean value of water temperature at

morning, noon and evening was recorded as 18.00, 19.55 and 17.79°C, respectively in the month of December. Yearly mean of water temperature was found as  $28.32 \text{ mg/l} \pm 4.64$ .

The pond water showed somewhat alkaline in nature with small variation. The pH was noted to fluctuate between 7.5 (May) and 9.5 (July). The highest mean value of pH in morning, noon and evening were recorded as 8.53 (August), 8.72 (April) and 8.66 (August), respectively. The lowest mean value of pH in morning, noon and evening were recorded as 7.72 (May), 8.14 (November) and 8.13 (November) respectively. Yearly mean pH value of water was found as  $8.33 \pm 0.21$ .

The DO content of water varied from a minimum 2.00 mg/l (March) to a maximum 9.00 mg/l (December). The highest mean value of DO was 7.87 mg/l at surface (August), .59 mg/l at middle (December) and 11.2 mg/l at bottom (August). The lowest mean value of DO were 4.3 mg/l at surface, 2.95 mg/l at middle, 4.63 mg/l at bottom in the month of March. Yearly mean DO value of water was found as  $5.25 \text{ (mg/l)} \pm 0.79$ .

The lowest free CO<sub>2</sub> was recorded 0.0 mg/l (April, May, June, July, August and November) and the highest value was record 19.00 mg/l (June). The highest free CO<sub>2</sub> mean value at surface, middle and bottom were 842, 8.59 and 11.2 mg/l in March and lowest were 1.42, 2.95 and 4.63 mg/l, respectively in the month of May. Yearly mean CO<sub>2</sub> value of water was found as  $6.73 \text{ (mg/l)} \pm 2.41$ .

The bicarbonate alkalinity varied between 69 mg/l (June) and 186 mg/l (March). The highest mean value of HCO<sub>3</sub> alkalinity at surface, middle and bottom were recorded as 143.84, 145.84 and 141.84 mg/l in March and the lowest mean value were 84, 78.84, 78.84, respectively in June. Yearly mean HCO alkalinity value of water was found as  $101.49 \text{ mg/l} \pm 18.51$ .

The range of carbonate alkalinity was lowest 0.0 mg/l (March) and highest 12 mg/l (October). The highest mean value of HCO<sub>3</sub> alkalinity at surface, middle and bottom were recorded as 4.71 and 3.99 mg/l in August and 1.95 mg/l in November and the lowest mean value were 0.0, 0.0, 0.0 mg/l, respectively in March, June, July, September, October, December. Yearly mean of CO alkalinity value of water was found as  $1.114 \text{ mg/l} \pm 1.42$ .

The total cladoceran number was always found abundant near the surface during the early morning and evening and in lesser number in the noon throughout the study period. This type of variation occurred due to differences in light intensity and temperature variation in the upper levels of water. In order to ensure better oxygen consumption, cladoceran migrated towards the surface layers. On the contrary, lower temperature as well as high availability of detritus and debris played significant role for high concentration of ciadoceran in the bottom layers at noon. This is in conformity with the findings of Beeton<sup>(19)</sup>, Micheal.<sup>(9)</sup> During the study period different cladocerans showed different vertical migrations.

*Diaphanosoma* sp. was abundant round the year during the study period and found in large numbers ii springs and less in number in summer season. The number increased

near the surface and bottom layers in morning and evening and in the surface layers during noon. The yearly occurrence of *Diaphanosoma* sp. in surface, middle and bottom layers was 501, 172 and 190 units/l, respectively.

*Daphnia* sp. was more in surface layers and less in number in middle layers. The 2 of *Daphnia* sp. in surface, middle and bottom layers were 362, 46 and 189 units/l, respectively.

The number of *Moina* sp. was rich in surface layers whereas its presence in bottom layers was considerably lower than surface and middle layers throughout the year. The yearly occurrence of *Moina* sp. in surface, middle and bottom layers was 159, 71 and 62 units/l, respectively.

*Bosmina* sp. was abundant in December and less in number in March. It reached peak in number near the surface layers in morning and evening. The yearly occurrence of *Bosmina* sp. in surface, middle and bottom layers was 78, 31 and 33 units/l, respectively (Table 1).

**Table 1. Depth wise monthly occurrence of cladoceran (units/l) of the study pond.**

Months		Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
<i>Diaphanosoma</i> sp.	Sur.	52	41	31	31	38	29	43	42	87	107	501
	Mid.	26	11	13	4	8	7	10	9	36	48	172
	Bot.	26	16	17	8	15	12	19	18	25	34	190
<i>Daphnia</i> sp.	Sur.	31	26	22	10	17	19	33	46	69	89	362
	Mid.	7	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	46
	Bot.	16	15	8	3	10	12	20	32	36	37	189
<i>Moina</i> sp.	Sur.	33	16	14	3	0	0	0	0	0	80	159
	Mid.	17	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	71
	Bot.	14	6	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	32
<i>Bosmina</i> sp.	Sur.	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	78
	Mid.	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	31
	Bot.	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	33

It was evident from the present study that most cladoceran species migrated upward from deeper waters to more sacrificial strata as darkness approaches and returned to deeper strata at noon. Maximum number of cladoceran was found in surface layers in nocturnal migration in a single maximum some time between sunset and sunrise. In other cases, twilight migration resulted in two maxima in surface layers, one at dawn and another at dusk. The photic hour migration of some cladocerans was as follows.

From the yearly variation in different layers it was evident that *Diaphanosoma* sp. was 455 units/l in the morning, 149 units/l in noon and 259 units/l in evening.

*Daphnia* sp. was maximum in morning sampling 358 units/l, minimum in noon sampling 63 units/l and then started increasing 176 units/l in evening.

Yearly abundance of *Moina* sp. was 142, 43 and 107 units/l in morning, noon and evening respectively.

Yearly abundance of *Moina* sp. was 55 units/l in morning, 28 units/l in noon and 59 units/l in evening (Table 2).

**Table 2. Monthly photic hour distribution of cladoceran (units/l) of the study pond.**

Months		Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
<i>Diaphanosoma</i> sp.	Morn.	55	35	23	20	39	27	43	42	78	93	455
	Noon	23	12	15	6	5	11	14	13	21	29	149
	Even.	26	21	23	17	17	10	15	14	49	67	259
<i>Daphnia</i> sp.	Morn.	22	24	8	10	18	20	37	54	78	87	358
	Noon	15	10	9	2	1	1	1	2	1	21	63
	Even.	17	13	13	1	8	10	15	22	26	51	176
<i>Moina</i> sp.	Morn.	26	12	16	4	0	0	0	0	10	74	142
	Noon	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	30	43
	Even.	29	11	4	0	0	0	0	0	9	54	107
<i>Bosmina</i> sp.	Morn.	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	55
	Noon	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	28
	Even.	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	59

During the present investigation, the highest number of cladoceran was recorded in December 2007. In general the planktonic number decreases with the increase of temperature. Temperature influences both directly and indirectly of the vertical and photic hour migration. High temperature acted as an important barrier for the upward migration of cladocerans while certain other forms like *Mycrocystis* sp. was not influenced by the vertical temperature variation in photic hours.<sup>(20)</sup>

Cladocerans showed negative relationship with rainfall ( $r = -0.68$ ), water temperature ( $r = -0.89$ ), pH ( $r = -0.53$ ),  $\text{CO}_3$  alkalinity ( $r = -0.22$ ) and positive relationship with DO ( $r = 0.18$ ), free  $\text{CO}_2$  ( $r = 0.02$ ),  $\text{HCO}_3$  alkalinity ( $r = 0.08$ ).

*Diaphanosoma* sp. showed a limited degree of positive relationship with DO ( $r = 0.05$ ), free  $\text{CO}_2$  ( $r = 0.02$ ) and negative relationship with pH ( $r = -0.52$ ),  $\text{CO}_3$  alkalinity ( $r = -0.11$ ) and  $\text{HCO}_3$  alkalinity ( $r = -0.02$ ), water temperature ( $r = -0.96$ ). *Daphnia* sp. showed positive relationship with DO ( $r = 0.20$ ) and inverse relationship with water temperature ( $r = -0.92$ ), pH ( $r = -0.46$ ), free  $\text{CO}_2$  ( $r = -0.57$ ),  $\text{CO}_3$  alkalinity ( $r = -0.10$ ),  $\text{HCO}_3$  alkalinity ( $r = -0.14$ ). *Moina* sp. showed highly negative relationship with DO ( $r = -0.23$ ) and limited degree of positive relationship with free  $\text{CO}_2$  ( $r = 0.08$ ),  $\text{HCO}_3$  alkalinity ( $r = 0.17$ ) and negative relationship with water temperature ( $r = -0.77$ ), pH ( $r = -0.56$ ),  $\text{CO}_3$  alkalinity ( $r = -0.28$ ). *Bosmina* sp. showed limited degree of positive relationship with DO ( $r = 0.16$ ), free  $\text{CO}_2$  ( $r = 0.25$ ) and  $\text{HCO}_3$  alkalinity ( $r = 0.25$ ). It showed negative relationship with water temperature ( $r = -0.75$ ),  $\text{CO}_3$  alkalinity ( $r = -0.39$ ) and pH ( $r = -0.46$ ). The correlation

co-efficient between different cladocerans and physico-chemical factors of water were calculated and shown.

From the present observation it is observed that the cladocerans were relatively abundant in bottom layers of water at morning and evening time. At noon, they were sometime absent at the surface layers and found at the bottom layers. So it can be concluded that light is the most important factor for the vertical migration of the cladocerans.

Miah and Dewan<sup>(21)</sup> also found that plankton is the important food of *L. rohita*. Bhuiyan *et al.*<sup>(22)</sup> found a positive co-relationship between the copepods distribution and the dissolved oxygen ( $r = 0.48$ ) and negative relationship with water temperature ( $r = -0.5$ ), pH ( $r = -0.16$ ) and CO<sub>2</sub> ( $r = -0.40$ ). They also found positive relationship between the cyclops and DO ( $r = 0.22$ ). Bhuiyan *et al.*<sup>(23)</sup> observed the occurrence and abundance of some copepods in a fish pond of Rajshahi. They also studied the diurnal migration of copepods.

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