

Phytoplankton Community in the Pasak Jolasid Reservoir, Lop Buri Province

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ABSTRACT

Qualitative aspect of the phytoplankton of Pasak Jolasid reservoir was studied during 2002. A total of 159 species and 81 varieties was recorded. Phytoplankton samples were collected by towing plankton nets of three mesh sizes 22, 40 and 100 μm at 29 stations. Green algae (Class Chlorophyceae) comprised the majority of species number with 54%, and followed by euglenoids (Class Euglenophyceae) with 17%. Other groups in decreasing number were Class Cyanophyceae, Class Bacillariophyceae, Class Dinophyceae, Class Xanthophyceae and Class Chrysophyceae. Important genera were *Scenedesmus*, *Pediastrum*, *Crucigenia*, *Closterium*, *Tetraedron*, *Coelastrum*, *Trachelomonas* and *Phacus*. Temporal and spatial variation in species numbers were not significantly different ($P < 0.05$) in this study.

Key Words: phytoplankton, species composition, Pasak Jolasid reservoir, Thailand, tropical region

INTRODUCTION

Phytoplankton is the crucial part of aquatic food chain. As the primary producer, phytoplankton converts inorganic matters into organic compounds through photosynthesis, enabling transfers of energy and nutrients to zooplankton and other aquatic animals in the food chain. Each species of phytoplankton inhabits in different environments. Some live in areas with high concentration of organic matters, others are found in reservoirs with moderate concentration of organic matter while a number of species thrive in environment with little organic matter. Some phytoplankton species can thus be used as water quality index (Round, 1973), particularly for pollution caused by organic matters. Most plankton has short life cycle and can quickly respond to changing environment, such as in the case of water pollution.

Pasak Jolasid dam is a part of His Majesty's initiative on development of Pasak River basin. The earth dam is located in Pattana Nikom district, Lop Buri province and has effectively created a large reservoir, Pasak Jolasid reservoir, with maximum storage capacity of 960 million cubic meters. The dam itself was constructed to mitigate flooding in Pasak River basin and Lower Chao Praya river basin, which includes Bangkok and adjacent provinces. In addition, the dam was aimed to be used to tackle the problem of water shortage in agriculture, to provide water storage for consumption and industry, to enable introduction of new technologies for water management in irrigation projects as well as accommodate breeding of commercial fish species and large-scale fishing activities in the area (Royal Irrigation Department, 1999). Being a newly built reservoir, very little information on plankton in Pasak Jolasid has been made available. There were also few studies on plankton in Pasak river prior to the construction of the dam. These studies include environmental impact assessment of

the dam project by the Royal Irrigation Department, impact assessments on constructions of factories along Pasak river in Saraburi province (Royal Irrigation Department, 1997, 1998) and study by Jinowat (2000) on plankton distribution in a section of Pasak river located in Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya province, further south of the dam. These studies are not particularly relevant in understanding plankton distribution in the reservoir. Therefore, new investigation is thus needed.

Dam construction can bring about several changes to natural reservoirs, including their aquatic ecosystems. Studies on ecosystems, biodiversity and fishery resources after the constructions are essential in understanding these changes in enabling effective reservoir management and efficient use of their natural resources. As a newly built reservoir, carrying out such study in Pasak Jolasid reservoir is important. This study is a part of the project entitled "Strategies for Sustainable Management of Fishery Resources in the Pasak Jolasid Reservoir, Thailand through Ecological and Socioeconomic (SUMAFISH)" which aimed to investigate fishery resources in the reservoir for sustainable management of fishery. The purposes of this study are to investigate the species composition of phytoplankton in the reservoir, and whether there are temporal and spatial variation of phytoplankton community in the study area. Results of this study can be used as baseline information for future diversity and ecological studies of phytoplankton in reservoirs of Thailand.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study sites

Pasak Jolasid reservoir is located in Pasak river at latitude $14^{\circ} 50' 32''$ N and longitude $101^{\circ} 05' 00''$ E, linking Nong Bua village, Nong Bua Sub-district, Pattana Nikom district, Lop Buri province on one side with Kum Pran village, Kum Pran Sub-district, Wang Moun district, Saraburi province on the other. The dam receives most of water from Pasak river, which is originated from Phetchabun mountain range located in Dan Sai district, south of Loei province. The dam has been operational since September 1999 with maximum storage capacity of to 960 cubic meters at 45 meters above the sea level. At normal storage, the reservoir covers approximately 149 square kilometers (21,680 ha). The study of the reservoir covered from the dam itself (latitude $14^{\circ} 50'$ N) to upstream area around Tadindum village, Chaibadan district, Lop Buri province (latitude $15^{\circ} 11'$ N). Twenty-nine sampling stations were used in the study to ensure proper coverage of the whole reservoir. These stations were located in 4 separated areas divided by different latitudes. (Figure 1).

Sampling methods

Samples were collected 6 times every 2 months during 2002. Plankton nets with mesh size 22, 40 and 100 μ m were used in collecting samples with oblique tow technique. Phytoplankton samples were preserved with 4% formaldehyde solution. Olympus CK30 microscopes and Sedgwick-Rafter slides were used in studying species identification. Species classification of the samples was mainly based on Desikachary (1959), Prescott (1962), West and West (1904, 1905, and 1908), Wongrat (1999), and Yamagishi (1992). Round (1973) and Smith (1950) were also used as complementary references for the classification. We followed the classification system recommended by Christensen (1962 cited by Wongrat, 1999).

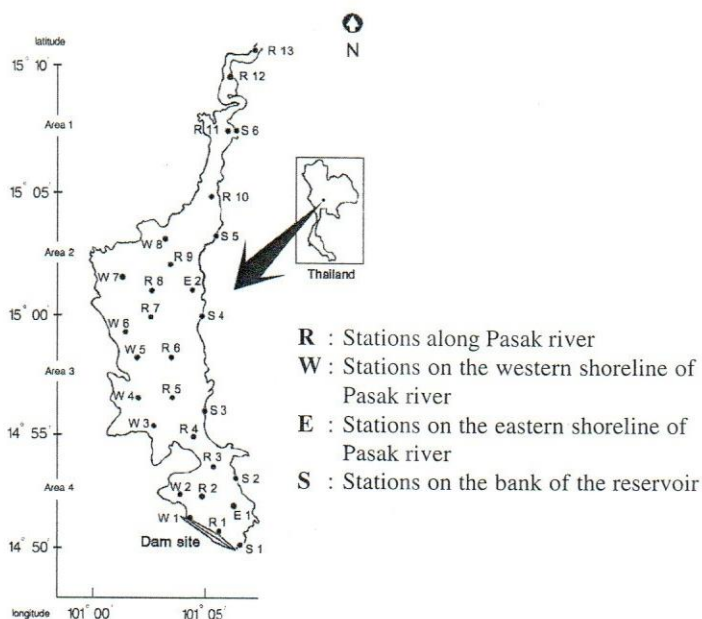


Figure 1 Sampling stations for phytoplankton in the Pasak Jolasid reservoir, Lop Buri province

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The study of phytoplankton community in Pasak Jolasid from February to December 2002 was conducted with 942 samples. We found 3 divisions of phytoplankton, 66 genera, 159 species and 18 varieties. Most of the species found belonged to Class Chlorophyceae (green algae), which had the highest number of species with 32 genera 87 species and 9 varieties (54%), followed by Class Euglenophyceae (euglenoids) with 5 genera 28 species 7 varieties (17%), Class Cyanophyceae (blue-green algae) with 10 genera 22 species (14%), Class Bacillariophyceae (diatoms) with 14 genera 16 species 2 varieties (10%), Class Dinophyceae (dinoflagellates) with 3 genera 4 species (3%), Class Xanthophyceae (yellow green algae) with 1 genera 2 species (1%) and Class Chrysophyceae (chrysophytes) with 1 genus 1 species (1%), respectively (Figure 2). The most diverse genus was *Scenedesmus* which was frequently occurred throughout the study with 15 species followed by *Trachelomonas* 10 species, *Phacus* 9 species, *Pediastrum* 7 species, *Tetradron* 6 species, *Crucigenia*, *Closterium* and *Coelastrum* 5 species, each. These 8 genera have been classified as cosmopolitan genera (Prescott, 1962; Wongrat, 1999).

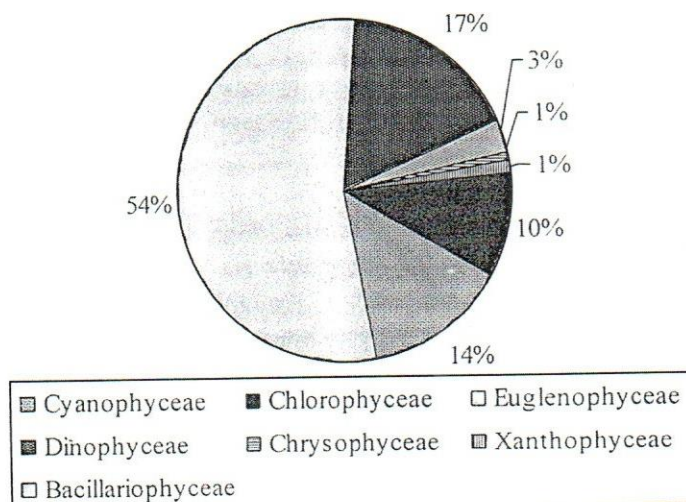


Figure 2 Taxonomic structure (relative proportion of taxa) of the phytoplankton in Pasak Jolasid reservoir

Table 1 gives a list of phytoplankton found in the reservoir. Additional photomicrographs are provided in Plates 1-3.

Table 1 List of phytoplankton found in the Pasak Jolasid reservoir (Feb.-Dec. 2002). The symbol * indicates figure presented in Plates 1-3.

Division Cyanophyta

Class Cyanophyceae (Blue green algae; Cyanobacteria)

Family Chroococcaceae

- Chroococcus minutus* (Kützing) Naegeli*
- C. turgidus* (Kützing) Naegeli
- Merismopedia convoluta* Brébisson
- M. minima* Beck
- M. punctata* Meyen
- M. tenuissima* Lemmermann*
- Microcystis aeruginosa* Kützing*
- Myxosarcina burmensis* Skuja

Order Nostocales

Family Oscillatoriaceae

- Lyngbya limnetica* Lemmermann
- Oscillatoria* sp.1
- Oscillatoria* sp.2
- O. limnetica* Lemmermann*
- O. tenuis* C.A. Agardh
- Phormidium mucicola* Naumann & Huber-Pestalozzi
- Spirulina* sp.
- S. major* Kützing
- S. platensis* (Nordstedt) Geitler*

Family Nostocaceae

- Anabaena affinis* Lemmermann*
- A. fertilissima* Rao

A. spiroides Klebahn

Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii (Woloszynska)

Seenayya et Subba Raju*

C. phillipinensis (Taylor) Komárek

Division Chlorophyta

Class Chlorophyceae (Green algae)

Order Volvocales

Family Volvocaceae

- Eudorina elegans* Ehrenberg*
- Gonium pectorale* Müller*
- Pandorina morum* (Müller) Bory*
- Volvox tertius* A. Meyen*

Order Chlorococcales

Family Chlorococcaceae

- Golenkinia radiata* (Chodat) Wille

Family Hydrodictyaceae

- Pediastrum* sp.1
- Pediastrum* sp.2
- P. duplex* var. *gracilimum* West & West
- P. obtusum* Lucks
- P. simplex* (Meyen) Lemmermann
- P. simplex* var. *duodenarium* (Bailey) Rabenhorst*
- P. simplex* var. *echinulatum* Wittrock*

Family Coelastraceae

- Coelastrum astroideum* De Notaris*
- C. cambricum* Archer

Table 1 (Cont.)

<i>Coelastrum microporum</i> Naegeli	<i>S. denticulatus</i> Lagerheim
<i>C. reticulatum</i> (Dangeard) Senn	<i>S. dimorphus</i> (Turpin) Kützing
<i>C. sphaericum</i> Naegeli	<i>S. disciformis</i> Chodat (Fott) & Komarek
Family Botryococcaceae	<i>S. javanensis</i> Chodat
<i>Botryococcus braunii</i> Kützing*	<i>S. pannonicus</i> Hortobagyi
Family Oocystaceae	<i>S. producto-capitatus</i> Schmula
<i>Ankistrodesmus convolutus</i> (Corda) Ralfs	<i>S. protuberans</i> Frisch & Rich
<i>A. falcatus</i> (Corda) Ralfs	<i>S. quadricauda</i> (Turpin) Brébisson*
<i>Chlorella vulgaris</i> Bayerinck	<i>S. smithii</i> Teiling
<i>Chodatella chodatii</i> (Bernard) Ley	<i>Tetrastrum heteracanthum</i> (Nordstedt) Chodat
<i>C. citriformis</i> Snow	<i>T. staurogeniforme</i> (Schroeder) Lemmermann
<i>Dictyosphaerium ehrenbergianum</i> Naegeli	Order Oedogoniales
<i>D. pulchellum</i> Wood*	Family Oedogoniaceae
<i>Monoraphidium caribeum</i> Hindak	<i>Oedogonium</i> sp.
<i>Monoraphidium contortum</i> (Thuret)	Order Zygnematales
Komarkova-Legnerova	Family Zygnemataceae
<i>M. griffithii</i> (Berkeley) Komarkova-Legnerova	<i>Mougeotia scalaris</i> Hassell
<i>Nephrocytium limneticum</i> (G.M. Smith)	<i>Spirogyra weberi</i> Kützing
G.M. Smith	Family Desmidiaceae
<i>Oocystis elliptica</i> W. West	<i>Closterium acerosum</i> (Schränk) Ehrenberg
<i>O. parva</i> West & West	<i>C. acerosum</i> (Schränk) Ehrenberg
<i>Quadricoccus laevis</i> Fott	var. <i>elongatum</i> Brébisson
<i>Selenastrum westii</i> G.M. Smith	<i>C. limneticum</i> Lemmermann
<i>Tetraedron caudatum</i> (Corda) Hansgirg	<i>C. moniliferum</i> (Bory) Ehrenberg*
<i>T. gracile</i> (Riensch) Hansgirg	<i>C. praelongum</i> Brébisson
<i>T. minimum</i> (Braun) Hansgirg	<i>C. binum</i> Nordstedt
<i>T. minutissimum</i> Korschikoff	<i>C. contractum</i> Kirchner
<i>T. regulare</i> Kützing	<i>C. laeve</i> Rabenhorst
<i>T. trigonum</i> (Naegeli) Hansgirg var. <i>gracile</i>	<i>C. punctulatum</i> Brébisson
(Reinsch) De Toni	<i>C. subprotumidum</i> Nordstedt var. <i>gregorii</i>
<i>Treubaria schmidlei</i> (Schroeder) Fott &	(Roy & Bisset) W. & G.S. West
Kovacik	<i>Euastrum spinulosum</i> Delponte
Family Scenedesmaceae	<i>Staurostrum gracile</i> Ralfs
<i>Actinastrum gracillimum</i> G.M. Smith	<i>S. limneticum</i> Schmidle
<i>A. hantzschii</i> Lagerheim	var. <i>burmense</i> West & West
<i>Crucigenia crucifera</i> (Wolle) Collins	<i>S. octoverucosum</i> Scott
<i>C. lauterbornii</i> Schmidle*	<i>S. sebaldi</i> Reinsch var. <i>ornatum</i> Nordstedt*
<i>C. neglecta</i> Fott & Ettl	<i>Staurostrum tetracerum</i> (Kützing) Ralf
<i>C. tetrapedia</i> (Kirchner) W. & G.S. West	Class Euglenophyceae (Euglenoids)
<i>C. rectangularis</i> (A. Braun) Gay	Order Euglenales
<i>Kirchneriella contorta</i> (Schmidle) Bohlin	Family Euglenaceae
var. <i>gracillima</i> (Bohlin) Chodat	<i>Euglena acus</i> Ehrenberg
<i>K. diana</i> (Bohlin) Comas	<i>E. oxyuris</i> Schmarda var. <i>charkowiensis</i>
<i>K. lunaris</i> (Kirchner) Moebius*	(Swirensko) Chu
<i>Micractinium</i> sp.1	<i>E. proxima</i> Dangeard
<i>M. bornhemienae</i> (Conrad) Korschikoff	<i>E. spirogyra</i> Ehrenberg
<i>M. pusillum</i> Fresenius	<i>Lepocinclis constrictus</i> Matvienko
<i>M. quadrisetum</i> (Lemmermann) G.M. Smith	<i>L. ovum</i> (Ehrenberg) Lemmermann
<i>Scenedesmus</i> sp.	<i>Phacus angulatus</i> Pochmann
<i>S. armatus</i> (Chodat) G.M. Smith	<i>P. hamatus</i> Pochmann
<i>S. acuminatus</i> (Lagerheim) Chodat*	<i>P. helikoides</i> Pochmann
<i>S. acutiformis</i> Schroeder	<i>P. longicauda</i> (Ehrenberg) Dujardin
<i>S. bijuga</i> (Turpin) Lagerheim	var. <i>rotundus</i> (Pochmann) Huber-Pestalozzi
<i>S. bernardii</i> G.M. Smith	<i>P. longicauda</i> (Ehrenberg) Dujardin
	var. <i>insecta</i> Koezvara

Table 1 (Cont.)

<i>Phacus myersi</i> Skvortzow*	Family Cymbellaceae
<i>P. pleuronectes</i> (O.F.Müller) Dujardin*	<i>Cymbella tumida</i> (Brébisson) Van Heurck
<i>P. ranula</i> Pochmann	<i>Encyonema</i> sp.
<i>P. tortus</i> (Lemmermann) Skvortzow	<i>Gomphonema</i> spp.
<i>Trachelomonas armata</i> (Ehrenberg) Stein	Family Naviculaceae
f. <i>coronata</i> Deflandre	<i>Gyrosigma spencerii</i> (Quekett)
<i>T. crebea</i> Kellicott*	Griffith & Henfrey
<i>T. hispida</i> (Perty) Stein*	<i>Navicula</i> spp.
<i>T. intermedia</i> Dangeard var. <i>papillifera</i>	Family Bacillariaceae
(Popova) Popova	<i>Nitzschia</i> spp.
<i>T. lacustris</i> Drezepolski	Family Rhopalodiaceae
<i>T. mirabilis</i> Swirenko var. <i>affinis</i> Skvortzow	<i>Rhopalodia</i> sp.
<i>T. ovalis</i> Playfair var. <i>minor</i> Playfair*	Family Surirellaceae
<i>T. scabra</i> Playfair	<i>Stenopterbia</i> sp.
<i>T. similis</i> Stokes	<i>Surirella</i> sp.
<i>T. volvocina</i> Ehrenberg var. <i>minuta</i> Fritsch	<i>S. robusta</i> Ehrenberg var. <i>splendida</i>
<i>Strombomonas</i> sp.	van Heurck*
<i>S. fluviatilis</i> (Lemmermann) Deflandre*	Class Chrysophyceae (Chrysophytes; Yellow algae)
<i>S. gibberosa</i> (Playfair) Deflandre	Order Ochromonadales
Division Chromophyta	Family Dinobryaceae
Class Bacillariophyceae (Diatoms)	<i>Dinobryon sertularia</i> Ehrenberg*
Order Biddulphiales (Centric diatoms)	Class Xanthophyceae (Yellow green algae)
Family Thalassiosiraceae	Order Mischoococcales
<i>Cyclotella meneghiniana</i> Kützing	Family Scidiaceae
Family Aulacoseiraceae	<i>Centritractus belonophorus</i> Lemmermann
<i>Aulacoseira granulata</i> (Ehrenberg) Simonsen*	<i>C. brunneus</i> Fott
Order Bacillariales (Pennate diatoms)	Order Gonyolales
Suborder Fragiariineae	Family Ceratiaceae
Family Fragilariaceae	<i>Ceratium brachyceros</i> Daday*
<i>Fragilaria</i> sp.	Family Peridiniaceae
<i>F. ulna</i> var. <i>acus</i> (Kützing) Lange	<i>Peridinium cunningtonii</i> (Lemmermann)
<i>Synedra ulna</i> (Nitzsch) Ehrenberg	Lemmermann*
Suborder Bacillariineae	<i>P. inconspicuum</i> Lemmermann
Family Achnantheaceae	Family Glenodiniaceae
<i>Achnanthes</i> sp.	<i>Glenodinium</i> sp.

Oscillatoria limnetica, *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii* and *Microcystis aeruginosa* were the most common species being found in all samples. This is consistent with Wetzel (1975) who stated that cyanobacteria, particularly *Oscillatoria* and *Microcystis*, can be found in nutrient rich environments. *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii* is a phytoplankton with heterocyst capable of nitrogen fixation (Wongrat, 1987). *Aulacoseira granulata* was the dominant species being found at almost all sampling stations throughout this study. This species is a diatom with long chain and tough cell wall and has been known to block filters used in water treatment when its population expands rapidly (Pekko, 2002).

Number of phytoplankton species in Pasak Jolasid reservoir fluctuated between seasons. The highest species number was recorded in December (124 species) and the lowest level in April (102 species). There was not any difference in species compositions between sampling periods (Figure. 3) and no significantly different in number of phytoplankton species between sampling stations (Figure 4). Class Chlorophyceae was the most diverse group, followed by Class Euglenophyceae, Class Cyanophyceae, Class Bacillariophyceae, Class Dinophyceae, Class Xanthophyceae and Class Chrysophyceae, respectively. The highest

number of species was observed at station R5 located on the Pasak river, whereas stations S4 (located on the east bank of the reservoir) and R12 (located on the Pasak river) contained the same number of species (88). The phytoplankton species of the Pasak Jolasid reservoir started to increase in February. The number was relatively stable in April and increased again until reached the highest value in December.

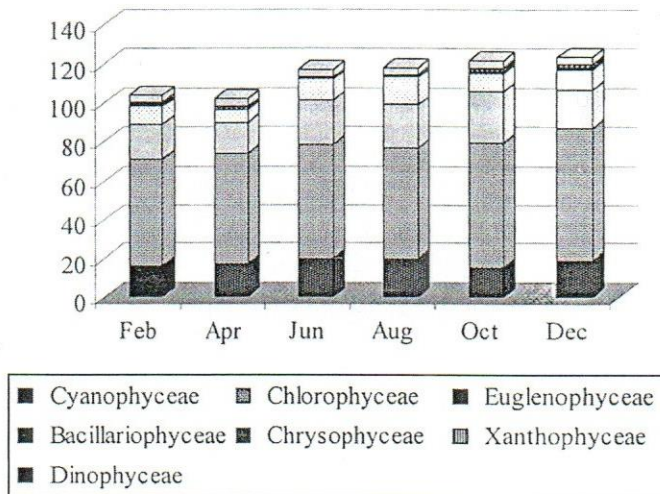


Figure 3 Temporal variation in species number of phytoplankton

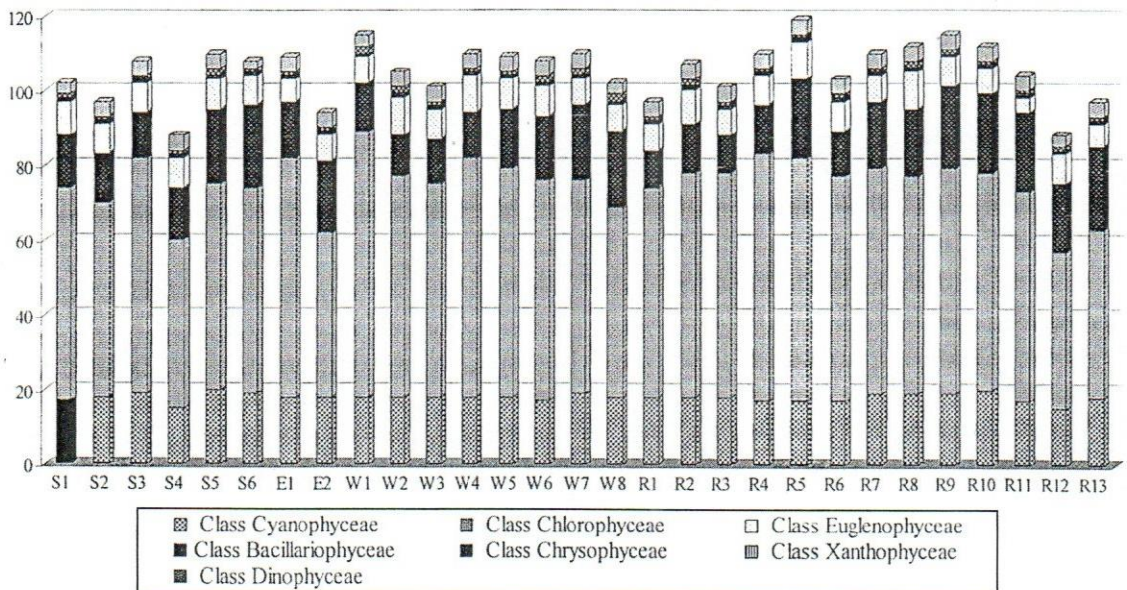


Figure 4 Spatial variation in species number of phytoplankton

This study found larger number of species of phytoplankton than those reported by environment impact assessment of the Pasak Jolasid dam conducted prior to the construction of the dam by Royal Irrigation Department (1993). The RID found only 35 phytoplankton species. Different sampling tool (three different mesh size of plankton nets) and the use of 29 sampling stations could contribute to the increase in the species number. However, physical change of the reservoir from riparian to static was likely to result in larger and more diverse populations of phytoplankton, by making available more nutrient and better overall water quality (Rukamatu, 2001). Three blooming species of phytoplankton, *Microcystis aeruginosa*, *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii* and *Aulacoseira granulata*, were found in considerable numbers and could be used as indicating species of eutrophication in the reservoir. The first two species were regularly dominant throughout the water column, except the latter species was dominant at 10-20 meters in August and October. These cyanophyte-dominated communities are typical of a highly eutrophic, often well mixed and turbid environment (Reynolds, 1984).

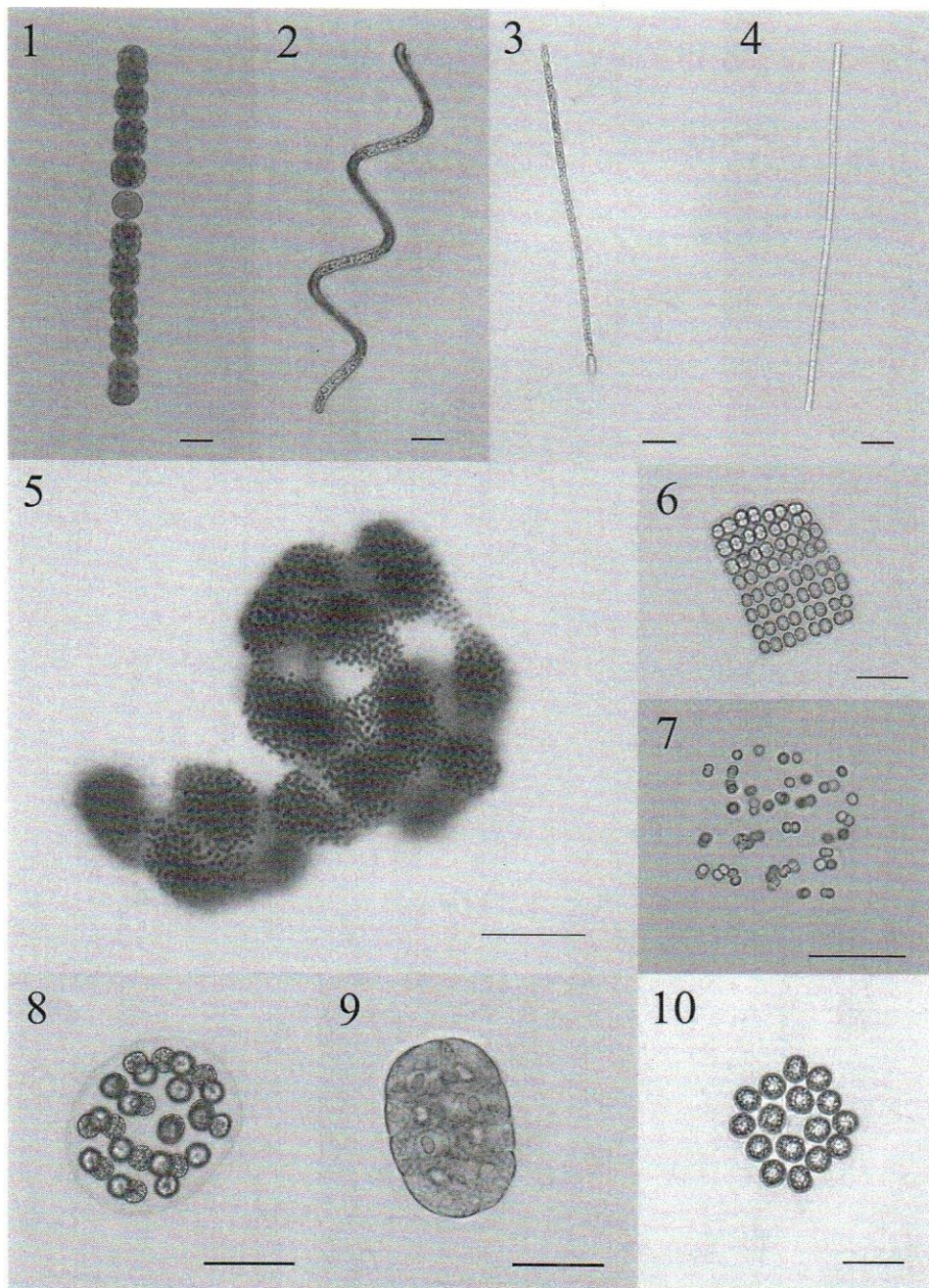
CONCLUSIONS

A phytoplankton taxon number of 159 species and 18 varieties was recorded in the Pasak Jolasid reservoir in 2002, with the following percentages : 54% Chlorophyceae, 17% Euglenophyceae, 14% Cyanophyceae, 10% Bacillariophyceae, and 5% other algae. There was not seasonal change in species composition throughout the study period. The largest number (124) and the lowest number (102) of species were recorded in December and April, respectively. However, no significant difference ($P < 0.05$) in species number of the phytoplankton community of the reservoir was found. Common genera were *Scenedesmus*, *Pediastrum*, *Crucigenia*, *Closterium*, *Tetraedron*, *Coelastrum*, *Trachelomonas*, and *Phacus*. The dominance of *Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii* and *Microcystis aeruginosa* was regularly observed in the water column, while *Aulacoseira granulata* was occasionally dominant at the depths 10-20 m. in August and October. The results provide useful knowledge on phytoplankton community for further study phytoplankton in the Pasak Jolasid reservoir. To control eutrophication in the reservoir, detailed investigation on blooming of blue-green algae should be conducted in relation to physical and chemical qualities of water.

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PLATE 1

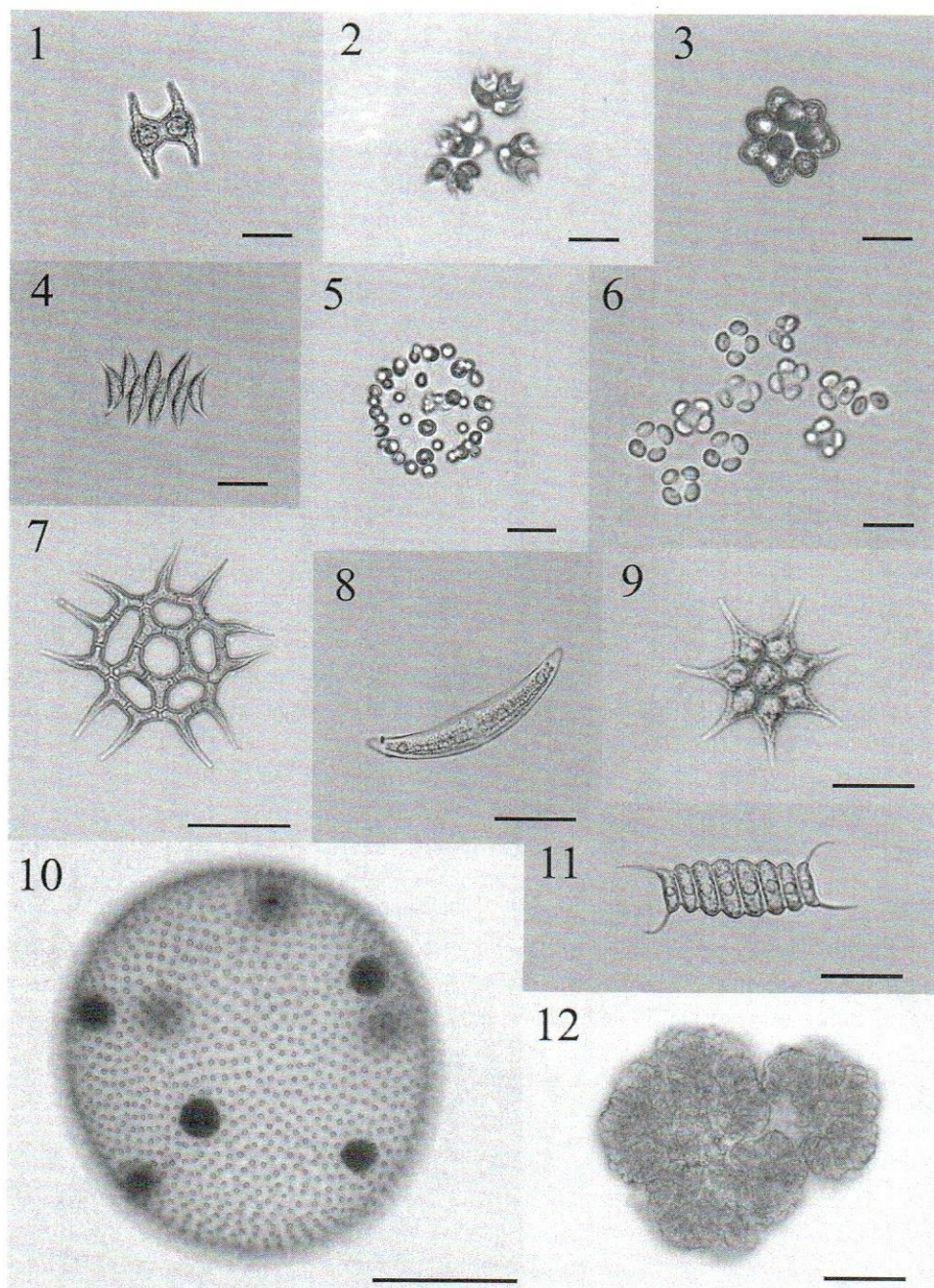


Phytoplankton in the Pasak Jolasid reservoir

- (1) *Anabaena affinis*; (2) *Spirulina platensis*;
 (3) *Cylandrospermopsis raciborski*; (4) *Oscillatoria limnetica*;
 (5) *Microcystis aeruginosa*; (6) *Merismopedia tenuissima*;
 (7) *Chroococcus minutus*; (8) *Eudorina elegans*;
 (9) *Pandorina morum*; (10) *Gonium pectorale*

Scale bars of Figs. 1-4 10 μm ; Figs. 6, 10 20 μm ; Figs. 5, 7, 8, 9 50 μm

PLATE 2

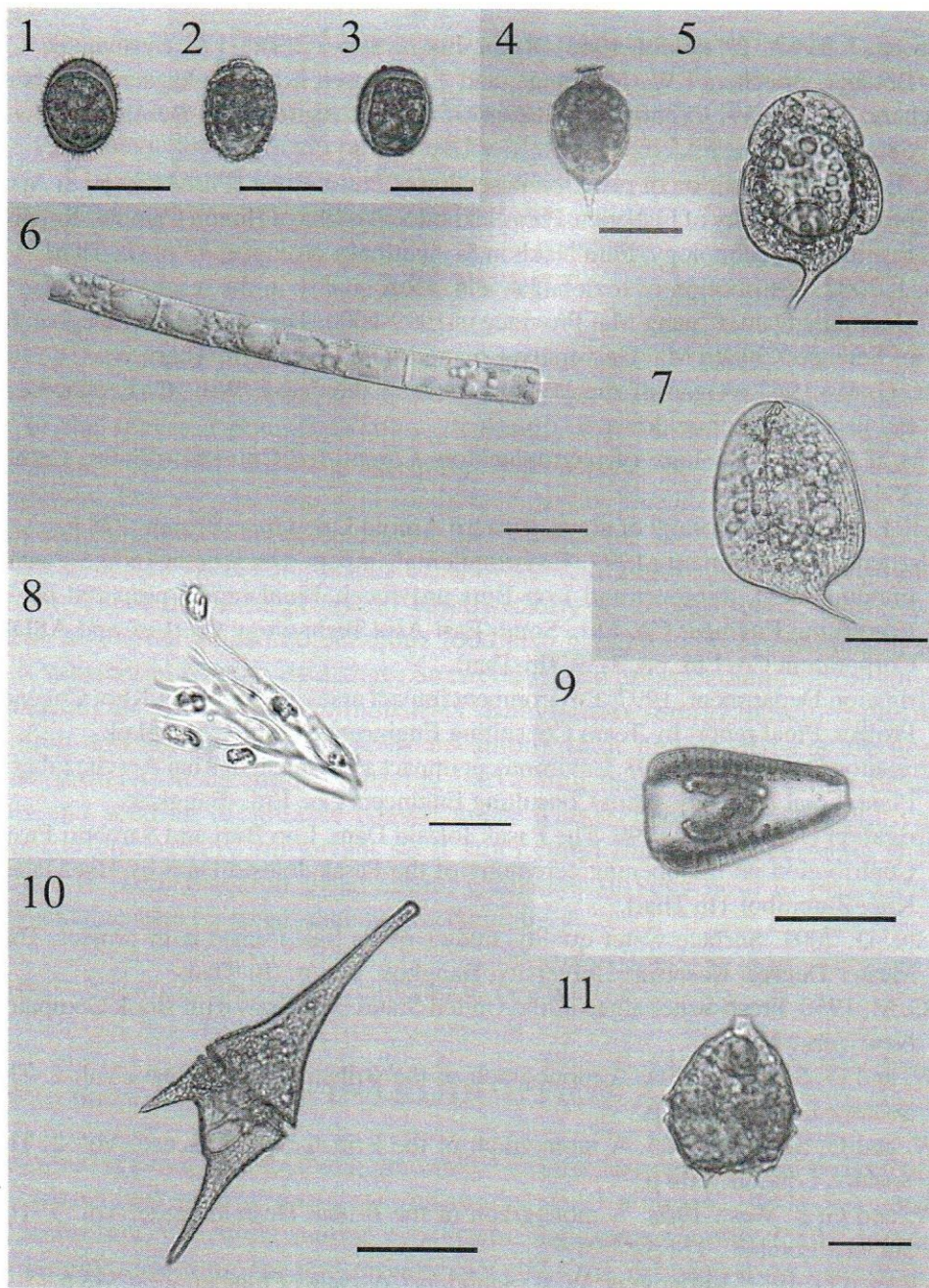


Phytoplankton in the Pasak Jolasid reservoir (cont.)

- (1) *Staurastrum sebaldi* var. *ornatum*; (2) *Kirchneriella lunaris*;
 (3) *Coelastrum astroideum*; (4) *Scenedesmus acuminatus*;
 (5) *Dictyosphaerium pulchellum*; (6) *Crucigenia lauterbornii*;
 (7) *Pediastrum simplex* var. *duodenarium*; (8) *Closterium moniliferum*;
 (9) *Pediastrum simplex* var. *echinulatum*; (10) *Volvox tertius*;
 (11) *Scenedesmus quadricauda*; (12) *Botryococcus braunii*

Scale bars of Figs. 1-6 10µm; Figs. 7-9, 11-12 50 µm; Figs. 10 50 µm

PLATE 3



Phytoplankton in the Pasak Jolasid reservoir (cont.)

- (1) *Trachelomonas hispida*; (2) *Trachelomonas crebea*;
 (3) *Trachelomonas ovalis* var. *minor*; (4) *Strombomonas fluviatilis*;
 (5) *Phacus myersi*; (6) *Aulacoseira granulata*;
 (7) *Phacus pleuronectes*; (8) *Dinobryon sertularia*;
 (9) *Surirella robusta* var. *splendida*; (10) *Ceratium brachyceros*;
 (11) *Peridinium cunningtonii*

Scale bars of Figs. 1-8, 11 20µm; Figs. 9, 10 50 µm

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