

PHYTOPLANKTON ASSEMBLAGE IN THE SOLAR SALTPANS OF KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU

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Abstract : The quantity and quality of salt production in a solar salt work is determined by the hydrobiological activity (Davis, 1974). Here we report on phytoplankton identified in different saltpans (Kovalam, Thamaraiikulam and Puthalam) of Kanyakumari District, India. Totally 45 taxa of phytoplankton were identified in four divisions such as *Bacillariophyta*, *Chlorophyta*, *Cyanophyta* and *Dinophyta*. Kovalam saltpan shows high marine cyanobacterial biodiversity than the other two saltpans.

Keywords: Phytoplakton, Saltpan, Cyanobacteria

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