

THE ABUNDANCE AND DIVERSITY OF  
BENTHIC INVERTEBRATE COMMUNITIES  
IN A TROPICAL ESTUARY

JOHN W. CROFT, JR. AND JOHN W. CROFT

PLANT PHYSIOLOGY AND TECHNOLOGY

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92521

2006



**THE ABUNDANCE AND DIVERSITY OF PHYTOPLANKTON IN SELECTED  
MANGROVE AREAS IN KUSTEM**

**By  
Hasnul Khatimah Binti Abdul Manaf**

**Research Report submitted in partial fulfillment of  
The requirements for the degree of  
Bachelor of Science (Marine Biology)**

**Department of Marine Science  
Faculty of Science and Technology  
KOLEJ UNIVERSITI SAINS & TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA  
2006**

**1100042392**

This project report should be cited as follows:

Hasnul Khatimah, A. M. 2006. The Abundance & Diversity of Phytoplankton in Selected Mangrove Areas in KUSTEM. Undergraduate thesis, Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology. Faculty of Science & Technology, Kolej Universiti Sains & Teknologi Malaysia. 177p.

No part of this project report may be reproduced by any mechanical, photographic or electronic process, or in the form of phonographic recording, nor may it be stored in a retrieval system, transmitted or otherwise copied for public or private use, without written permission from the author and the supervisor of the project.



**JABATAN SAINS SAMUDERA  
FAKULTI SAINS DAN TEKNOLOGI  
KOLEJ UNIVERSITI SAINS DAN TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA**

**PENGAKUAN DAN PENGESAHAN LAPORAN  
PROJEK PENYELIDIKAN I DAN II**

Adalah ini diakui dan disahkan bahawa laporan penyelidikan bertajuk:

The Diversity and Abundance of Phytoplankton in Selected Mangrove Areas in KUSTEM oleh Hasnul Khatimah Binti Abdul Manaf No. Matrik UK 7947 telah diperiksa dan semua pembetulan yang disarankan telah dilakukan. Laporan ini dikemukakan kepada Jabatan Sains Samudera sebagai memenuhi sebahagian daripada keperluan memperoleh Ijazah Sarjana Muda Sains (Biologi Marin), Fakulti Sains dan Teknologi, Kolej Universiti Sains dan Teknologi Malaysia.

Disahkan oleh:

*Christine A. Orosco*

Penyelia Utama

Nama:

**DR. SITI AISHAH ABDULLAH**  
**CHRISTINE A. OROSCO**

Cop Rasmi:

*Pensyarah*  
**Jabatan Sains Samudera**  
**Fakulti Sains dan Teknologi Malaysia**  
**(KUSTEM)**  
**21030 Kuala Terengganu.**

Tarikh: 26/4/2016

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Alhamdulillah, thanks to God. I have finished this project successfully for fulfillment of requirement of the degree of Bachelor of Science (Marine Biology).

First and foremost, I would like to express my heartiest gratitude to Dr. Siti Aishah Abdullah – my supervisor, for this project would not be possible if not for her constant inspiration, continual support and advice. Although she has always been busy with very tight schedules most of the time, but she has never failed to slot in valuable time for me and her students. This project helps me to realize the field of my interest for the further study. I feel very lucky to be her student and proud to have a lecturer like her.

Much gratitude to Puan Kartini Mohamad for her assistance in photography. Your advice and guidance are deeply appreciated. Also thanks to all the laboratory assistants in Biodiversity Laboratory and Oceanography Laboratory, this project would not be complete without your technical support.

I extend my thanks to my senior, Fong Chuen Far, Chan Kian Weng, and Gan Ming Heng. Thank you for your spirit and your hard work in helping me out in this task, your motivation makes everything possible.

Also bless to my dearest family and love one, which always support and understand me along I'm doing this project till finished. Spirit support, materials support, prays and many more, thank you for bringing me to this wonderful world.

Also not forget to all my friends, lovely housemate; Nur Wahidah, Siti Aidah, Maya Sofia, Siti Asawani, and Latiffah Najiha which always with me and helping me in wherever and whatever condition, happy or sad. Thanks a lot everybody.

## TABLE OF CONTENT

CONTENT	PAGE
TITLE PAGE	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	ii
TABLE OF CONTENT	iii
LIST OF TABLES	vi
LIST OF FIGURES	vii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS / SYMBOLS	ix
LIST OF APPENDICES	x
ABSTRACT	xi
ABSTRAK	xii
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	4
2.1 What is Phytoplankton	4
2.1.1 Definition of Phytoplankton	4
2.1.2 Classification of Phytoplankton	4
2.1.3 Identification of Phytoplankton	7
2.2 Phytoplankton as Primary Producers	8
2.2.1 Photosynthesis and Respiration of Phytoplankton	8
2.2.2 Biomass and Primary Productivity of Phytoplankton	9
2.3 Factors Affecting Phytoplankton Distribution and Abundance	10
2.3.1 Light	10
2.3.2 Nutrients	10
2.3.2 Other Dissolved Substances	11
2.3.3 Temperature	11
2.3.4 Salinity	12
2.3.5 Water Movement	12
2.3.6 Sinking and Grazing	13
2.3.7 Others Physical Factors	14
2.4 Diversity and Abundance	14

2.5	Wetland or Mangrove Areas	16
2.5.1	Definition of Wetland and Mangroves Areas	16
2.5.2	Ecology of Mangroves Areas	17
<b>CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY</b>		18
3.1	Study Area	18
3.1.1	Sampling Sites	18
3.1.2	Sampling Stations	19
3.2	Sampling Technique	20
3.3	Preservation and Storage	21
3.4	Concentration of Samples	22
3.5	Identification and Cell Counting	22
3.6	Calculation	23
3.7	Nutrient Analyses	24
3.7.1	Dissolved Nitrogen Analysis	24
3.7.1.1	Total Ammonium Analysis	25
3.7.1.2	Nitrite Analysis	27
3.7.1.3	Nitrate Analysis	28
3.7.2	Phosphate Analysis	31
<b>CHAPTER 4 RESULT</b>		33
4.1	The Physico-chemical Parameters at Sampling Stations	33
4.2	Nutrient Analyses	35
4.2.1	Total Ammonium Concentration for During Pre-monsoon and Monsoon Season	35
4.2.2	Nitrite Concentration for During Pre-monsoon and Monsoon Season	36
4.2.3	Nitrate Concentration for During Pre-monsoon and Monsoon Season	37
4.2.4	Phosphate Concentration for During Pre-monsoon and Monsoon Season	38
4.3	Phytoplankton Genera in all Sampling Stations Before Monsoon and During Monsoon	39
4.4	Phytoplankton Abundance at All Sampling Stations Before Monsoon and During Monsoon	56



4.5	The Species Diversity Index of Phytoplankton at All Sampling Stations Before Monsoon and During Monsoon	59
4.6	The Evenness Index of Phytoplankton at All Sampling Stations Before Monsoon and During Monsoon	60
4.7	Relationship between the Diversity Index, Physico-chemical Parameters and Nutrient concentration.	61
<b>CHAPTER 5 DISCUSSION</b>		62
5.1	The Physico-chemical Parameters at Sampling Stations	63
5.2	Nutrient Analyses	65
5.2.1	Total Ammonium in Water Before Monsoon and during Monsoon	65
5.2.2	Nitrite Content in Water Before Monsoon and during Monsoon	66
5.2.3	Nitrate Content in Water Before Monsoon and during Monsoon	67
5.2.4	Ortho-phosphate Content in Water Before Monsoon and during Monsoon	68
5.3	Phytoplankton Abundance Before Monsoon and During Monsoon	69
5.4	The Species Diversity Index of Phytoplankton Before Monsoon and During Monsoon	71
5.5	The Evenness Index of Phytoplankton Before Monsoon and During Monsoon	73
5.6	Relationship between the Diversity Index and Physico-chemical Parameters and Nutrients concentration	74
<b>CHAPTER 6 CONCLUSION</b>		77
<b>LITERATURE CITED</b>		80
<b>APPENDICES</b>		85
<b>VITAE KURIKULUM</b>		177

## LIST OF TABLES

TABLE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
3.1	Sampling stations location. Time, longitude and latitude of the sampling stations	19
4.1	Water parameters for all sampling stations	33
4.2	List of phytoplankton in the three stations from the selected mangrove areas before monsoon ( <b>B</b> ) and during monsoon ( <b>D</b> ) in high tide ( <b>H</b> ) and low tide ( <b>L</b> )	39
4.3	The values of $R^2$ , trendline equation and r value of correlation test for Diversity Index with Selected Factors in sampling before monsoon	61
4.4	The values of $R^2$ , trendline equation and r value of correlation test for Diversity Index with Selected Factors in sampling during monsoon	61

## LIST OF FIGURE

FIGURE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
3.1	Sampling sites. Three stations along Mengabang	19
4.1	Total Ammonium concentration at each station in both seasons and tides	35
4.2	Nitrite concentration at each station in both seasons and tides	36
4.3	Nitrate concentration at each station in both seasons and tides	37
4.4	Ortho-phosphate concentration at each station in both seasons and tides	38
4.5	Selected photographs of phytoplankton that exist in all three stations both before monsoon and during monsoon. (a) <i>Chaetoceros</i> (b) <i>Coscinodiscus</i> (c) <i>Cyclotella</i> (d) <i>Peridinium</i> (e) <i>Rhizosolenia</i> 1 (f) <i>Rhizosolenia</i> 2 (g) <i>Scenedesmus</i> 1 (h) <i>Scenedesmus</i> 2	50
4.6	Selected photographs of phytoplankton that exist in all three stations only in pre-monsoon. (a) <i>Actinastrum</i> (b) <i>Biddulphia</i> (c) <i>Cerataulina</i> (d) <i>Ceratium</i> (e) <i>Pachycladon</i>	51
4.7	Selected photographs of phytoplankton that exist in all three stations only in monsoon season. (a) <i>Coelastrum</i> (b) <i>Dictyosphaerium</i>	51
4.8	Selected photographs of dominant and common phytoplankton in the study areas, selected mangrove areas in KUSTEM. (a) <i>Actinastrum</i> (b) <i>Ankisterodesmus</i> (c) <i>Bacteriastrum</i> (d) <i>Chaetoceros</i> (e) <i>Chroococcus</i> (f) <i>Coscinodiscus</i> (g) <i>Cyclotella</i> (h) <i>Guinardia</i> (i) <i>Nitzschia</i> (j) <i>Peridinium</i> 1 (k) <i>Peridinium</i> 2 (l) <i>Rhizosolenia</i> 1 (m) <i>Rhizosolenia</i> 2 (n) <i>Rhizosolenia</i> 3 (o) <i>Scenedesmus</i> 1 (p) <i>Scenedesmus</i> 2	52
4.9	Selected photographs of non-common phytoplankton in the study areas, selected mangrove areas in KUSTEM. (a) <i>Amphora</i> (b) <i>Biddulphia</i> (c) <i>Cerataulina</i> (d) <i>Ceratium</i> (e) <i>Dictyosphaerium</i> (f) <i>Dinoflagellate</i> cyst 1 (g) <i>Dinoflagellates</i> cyst 2 (h) <i>Leptocylindricus</i> (i) <i>Eucampia</i> (j) <i>Hemialus</i> (k) <i>Navicula</i> (l) <i>Pachycladon</i> (m) <i>Pediastrum</i> (n) <i>Pleurosigma</i> (o) <i>Procentrum</i> (p) <i>Trichodesmium</i>	54

4.10	Phytoplankton abundance from 20 $\mu\text{m}$ net size at each station in all sampling	56
4.11	Phytoplankton abundance from 40 $\mu\text{m}$ net size at each station in all sampling	57
4.12	Phytoplankton abundance from 60 $\mu\text{m}$ net size at each station in all sampling	58
4.13	The Diversity Index of phytoplankton at each station in both seasons and tides	59
4.14	The Evenness Index of phytoplankton at each station in both seasons and tides	60

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/ SYMBOLS

%	-	Percent
<	-	Less than
>	-	More than
×	-	Multiplication
≈	-	Approximately
°C	-	Celcius
μm	-	Micrometer
C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	-	Glucose molecule
CO <sub>2</sub>	-	Carbon dioxide
g	-	Gram
H <sub>2</sub> O	-	Water molecule
L	-	Liter
m	-	Meter
M	-	Molar
m <sup>2</sup>	-	Square Meter
m <sup>3</sup>	-	Cubic meter
mg	-	Milligram
mg/L	-	Milligram per Liter
ml	-	Milliliter
mm	-	Millimeter
No./ml	-	Number per milliliter
ppm	-	Part per million
ppt	-	Part per thousand
r	-	Correlation
R <sup>2</sup>	-	R square
v/v	-	Volume per volume
w/v	-	Weight per volume
α	-	Alpha
Σ	-	Total

## LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX NO.	TITLE	PAGE
1	Standard curve for nutrient analysis	85
2	Number of phytoplankton per liter and cubic meter and the percentage abundance per Liter at each station before monsoon and during monsoon	87
3	Calculation of Diversity and Evenness Index of phytoplankton at each station before monsoon and during monsoon	117
4	Relationship between salinity and Diversity Index of phytoplankton at all sampling stations before monsoon and during monsoon	148
5	Relationship between total Ammonium concentration and Diversity Index of phytoplankton at all sampling stations before monsoon	154
6	Relationship between Nitrate concentration and Diversity Index of phytoplankton at all sampling stations before monsoon	160
7	Relationship between Ortho-phosphate concentration and Diversity Index of phytoplankton at all sampling stations before monsoon	168
8	Sampling stations in selected mangrove areas in KUSTEM	176

## ABSTRACT

Phytoplankton abundance and diversity in selected mangrove areas in KUSTEM were examined before monsoon (August) and during monsoon (November) 2005. Sampling was conducted at three stations four times; at high tide and low tide before monsoon and during monsoon season. The water parameters; temperature, salinity, conductivity, total dissolved solids (TDS), dissolved oxygen (DO) and pH for each station were recorded. Water samples collected (40 L) were filtered serially by plankton nets of 60 – 40 – 20  $\mu\text{m}$  mesh size. Samples were preserved with Lugol's Iodine in opaque glass bottles. Water samples (500 mL) for nutrient analyses also collected and nutrients (total ammonium, nitrate, nitrite and ortho-phosphate) were analyzed. Phytoplankton identification and counting were done by Lackey drop method. Phytoplankton abundance was expressed as number of phytoplankton per mL, number per Liter and number of phytoplankton per cubic meter. There were 99 genera of phytoplankton identified; 80 genera before monsoon and 76 genera during monsoon season. Diatoms dominated this area followed by green algae and dinoflagellates. Diversity and Evenness Index of phytoplankton were higher before monsoon than during monsoon and higher at high tide than at low tide. *Peridinium* appeared to bloom before monsoon (135 704 750 cells per cubic meter). From the statistical analysis, there was no correlation between phytoplankton diversity and salinity except for 20-40  $\mu\text{m}$  phytoplankton group before monsoon. There was correlation only between phytoplankton diversity and total ammonium concentration during monsoon season and a correlation between diversity of phytoplankton smaller than 60  $\mu\text{m}$  with nitrate and ortho-phosphate concentration before monsoon season.

## ABSTRAK

Kepadatan dan kepelbagaian fitoplankton di kawasan paya bakau KUSTEM dikaji sebelum musim tengkujuh (Ogos) dan ketika musim tengkujuh (November) 2005. Penyampelan dilakukan pada tiga stesen sebanyak empat kali; ketika air pasang dan air surut sebelum dan ketika musim tengkujuh. Parameter air; suhu, salinity, koduktiviti, jumlah jisim terlarut, oksigen terlarut dan pH pada setiap stesen direkodkan. Sampel air (40 L) ditapis bersiri menggunakan jaring fitoplankton bersaiz 60 – 40 – 20  $\mu\text{m}$ . Sampel diawet menggunakan Lugol's Iodine di dalam botol kaca legap. Sampel air (500 mL) juga diambil untuk analisis nutrien (Ammonium, Nitrat, Nitrit, dan Orto-fosfat). Pengenalpastian dan kiraan fitoplankton dilakukan menggunakan kaedah 'Lackey drop'. Kepadatan fitoplankton dinyatakan dalam bentuk bilangan fitoplankton per mL, bilangan per Liter dan bilangan fitoplankton per meter padu.. Terdapat 99 genera fitoplankton telah dikenalpasti di mana; 80 genera sebelum musim tengkujuh dan 76 genera ketika musim tengkujuh. Diatom mendominasi kawasan ini, diikuti alga hijau dan dinoflagelat. Indeks Kepelbagaian dan Indeks Evenness fitoplankton kawasan ini tinggi ketika sebelum musim tengkujuh berbanding di dalam musim dan juga tinggi ketika air pasang berbanding ketika air surut. *Peridinium* seperti mengalami 'bloom' sebelum musim tengkujuh (135 704 750 sel per meter persegi). Dari analisa statistik, tiada hubungan antara salinity dan kepelbagaian fitoplanton kecuali pada kumpulan 20-40  $\mu\text{m}$  sebelum musim tengkujuh. Terdapat hubungan antara kepekatan Ammonium dan kepelbagaian fitoplankton sebelum musim tengkujuh dan hubungan antara kepelbagaian fitoplankton kecil dari 60  $\mu\text{m}$  dengan kepekatan Nitrat dan Orto-fosfat ketika musim tengkujuh.