

Impact of pollution on Macrobenthos in River Saryu in Chhapra district

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Abstract

The present study was carried out in the River Saryu of Chhapra district of Bihar . Benthos can give us reliable information on stream , river and lake water quality. Benthos represent an extremely diverse group of aquatic animals and the large number of species possesses a wide range of response to stressors such as organic pollutants, sediments and toxicants. Benthic communities can be used to monitor stream quality condition of a broad area. In present study we studied impact of pollution on macrobenthic in River Saryu in Chhapra district

Keywords:-

Benthos, pollutants, toxicants, sediments , River Saryu , aquatic animals

Introduction:

Benthos is the community of organism which live on, in or near the seabed also known as the benthic zone. These animals are wide spread in their distribution and can live on all bottom types even on man-made object. Unlike fish benthos cannot move around much so they are less able to escape. The effect of sediments and other pollutants that diminish water quality. Therefore benthos can give us reliable information on stream river and lake water quality. Their long life cycles allow studies conducted by aquatic ecologists to determine any decline in environmental quality.

The firm term benthos comes from a Greek noun which means depth of the sea. Benthos is also used in freshwater biology to refer to organisms at the bottom of freshwater bodies of water such as lakes, rivers and streams. Freshwater benthic macroinvertebrates or more simply benthos are animals without backbones that are larger than 1/2 millimeter, i.e. size of a pencil dot

Materials and Methods :

The present study was carried out in the River Saryu of Chhapra district of Bihar. Bihar is located in the eastern part of India between latitude 21°-58'-10N - 27°-31' -15N and longitude 82°-19'-50E -88°-17'-40E. Saryu River is an important tributary of Ghaghara in India. It flows southeast through Uttar Pradesh and Bihar to join the Ganges downstream of the town Chhapra after a course of 1080 km.

Samples were collecting from River Saryu at the Rivilganjghat which is sampling station .The samples were collected with the use of an Ekman dredge and secured in bucket with US standard sieve no 40.The whole samples were sieved from the plankton net made up of nylon bolting silk mesh size 0.03 mm to 0.04 nn to obtain the benthos with the help of forceps or brush for preserving the same in 4% formalin. The residual organic matter retained in sieve was transported to the laboratory for further collecting of benthos. To this 5 g of sucrose was added for easy collecting of benthos. Samples were preserved in 70 percent ethanol. The samples counting was done with the help of Lackey's drop method .Where a known volume of water which below a 22 mm coverglass is placed over a glass slide. The volume is one drop taken by a dropper.Organism in this drop are counted in a high power microfield of a compound microscope.

Result and discussion :

The benthic macro invertebrate fauna of the main channel of River Saryu comprises 70 identified taxa with high diversity of 22 species of annelids 30 species of mollusca . 18 families genera or species of arthropoda .The biology and habitat of benthic organism often determine the causes of cycles of abundance and decline and to determine the impacts of pollution and habitat degradation.Unlike predator benthos can not move around much so they are less-able to escape the effects of sediment and other pollutants that diminish water quality.Living macro fauna are more sensitive to environment any disturbances making them potential bioindicators of the changes in the water and soil environment.Some benthos is found more often and larger amounts in water that generally clean or unpolluted by organic wastes .Without too much organic matter the water usually have lots of oxygen for benthos .This use as an indicator of water quality has been occurring for many years .Stone flies phylum arthropoda are often considered to be indicator of clean water.But due to increase of pollution in River Saryu the benthos i.e. Stoneflies cannot survive more.Molluscs usually do not tolerate pollution as high as do to bryozoa and chironomidsgastropodae.Melanoidestheria , M.scarba , Vivipara , BengalensisLymnaea ,accuminata , and Gyraulusconvexusculus were found in non polluted water with rich dissolved oxygen and in good water quality. In the present study it was also observed that some species of macro invertebrate were found to decrease in number or disappear from the polluted river.

Conclusion :

A benthic study may be used as baseline information to evaluate the prevailing condition.From above mention we can say that decrease in number ofGastropodae

phylum molluscs in River Saryu due to impact of pollution. Because we studied earlier that molluscs were found in non polluted water. In the present study it was also observed that same species of macroinvertebrate were found or became less in number of from the polluted River Saryu. It shows impact of pollution on macroinvertebrate in River Saryu.

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