IMPACT OF WATER MIXING AREAS IN QUALITATIVE VARIATIONS OF PHYTOPLANKTON ALGAE AND SOME PHYSIOCHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF WATER ON A SECTION OF TIGRIS RIVER, IRAQ

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Abstract

Water mixing area between agricultural drainage represented by the water of the Tharthar Arm project and Tigers River water was studied for one year beginning from March 2015 – February 2016, water samples were taken for the purpose of diagnosing of the planktonic non – diatoms algae and measuring some physiochemical characteristic monthly from two stations after the confluence to know the impact of this mixing on biodiversity of algae community and water characteristics that affect diversity. 27 species of non-diatoms algae which belong to different divisions were identified and the study also recorded a new species for Iraqi flora Lepocinclis salina Fritsch belonged to Division: Euglenophyta. Results also showed that temperature of water and Air ranged (11.20- 30.80 and 7.60-36.25°C), pH (6.85-7.79) total hardness and alkalinity (314- 640 and 72- 150) mg/l, DO and BOD\(_5\) (2.30- 9.06 and 0.03- 4.53). Either the nutrients NO\(_3\), PO\(_4\) and SO\(_4\) recorded the values (0.30-0.061, 1.02–1.005 and 187-702) mg/l respectively. The results also confirmed that the water of the study area was characterized by high values of conductivity, which ranged (1178-1455) ms/cm.

Key words: Phytoplankton, Tigris river, Tharthar Arm, New species, Mixing water.

Introduction

Iraq has great water abundance, such as the Tigris and Euphrates rivers and their tributaries, which have led to the emergence of ancient civilizations, and these two rivers are still the lifeblood of the Iraqi environment. Any disruption or mistreatment of these rivers is also largely reflected in all aspects of life in Iraq (Al-Fahad and Abbas, 2011). During its course, before entering the city of Baghdad, the Tigris River is exposed to many sources of pollution, most of which are human activities consisting of household waste and heavy water as well as water from the drainage of farmland, some plant residues and small plants on both sides of the river. Additionally, having some tributaries that increase of outstanding materials and increase in the concentration of ions and salts (Al-Magdamy, 2016).

These contaminants and various additions have led to a significant change in the chemical and physical properties of the river water, which significantly affects various neighborhoods aquatic and especially phytoplankton which are the base of the food chain in the aquatic environment (Al-Magdamy and Salman, 2015). That this change has led to the darkness of a group of algae-tolerant and one who could not resist, and it has also helped to emerge new algae species to the environment as a result of a single or more of the changing factors in river water that has been confirmed by many researchers (Al-Magdamy et al., 2017). As the salts increase after mixing the water of the Tharthar arm of the Tigris River and the presence of many contaminants has helped to provide a favourable environment for the growth and spread of a range of floating algae adapted to this situation.

Materials and Methods

The area of study in a section of the Tigris River north of Baghdad was specifically between the Tharthar arm and the Muthanna Bridge area. The site was selected by using a GPS device with longitude 44 18 26.52 and latitude 33 25 43.69 north of Baghdad. This section is characterized by the mixing of the water of Tharthar arm in the river Tigris and the slow of the flow and intensity the cane plant on the two sides, the presence of orchards, vegetable plantations, and some small factories on either side of the river. The river is exposed to many sources of pollution originating from various human activities, such as household waste, animal litter and heavy water, and these contaminants reach the river for months of year (Figure 1)
Collection of Samples

The water samples were collected monthly from March 2015 to February 2016 from the surface layer and 30 cm depth. Some water characteristics were measured depending on Golterman, et al. (1978) and APHA (2005). The samples of the floating algae were collected by using a special net with a diameter of 20 µm. The net binds with the boat and left beneath the water reversed the current for a quarter of an hour and then lifted it vertically and washed a few times with the water of the river and washed its contents a container of polyethylene, which capacity 250 ml and was preserved by Lugol’s solution.

The species of floating algae have been diagnosed by preparing temporary algae slides (APHA, 2005). These slides were examined in light microscope by using magnified bower 100x, 400x, 1000x and was adopted in the diagnosis of algae on some global and local references, Nural-Islam and Nahar (1969); Prescott (1982), Nural-Islam and Haroon (1985).

Results and Discussion

The results of the study factors indicated that there were clear changes between the different months of the year (Table 1), as the region’s climate was characterized as hot and dry in summer while cold and rainy winter. This effect applies to the rest of the environmental variables considered as the percentage of dissolved oxygen in water and bio demined for oxygen and other variables that have to relate with temperature change (Al-Janabi, 2011).

Table 1: Some physiochemical properties of the Tigris River waters within the study area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Air temperature</td>
<td>13.48</td>
<td>25.55</td>
<td>33.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water temperature</td>
<td>16.65</td>
<td>20.50</td>
<td>25.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pH</td>
<td>7.18</td>
<td>7.35</td>
<td>7.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ec µs.cm⁻¹</td>
<td>1157</td>
<td>1040</td>
<td>1149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. Alkalinity</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. hardness mg/l</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DO mg/l</td>
<td>6.90</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>5.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOD₅ mg/l</td>
<td>4.44</td>
<td>2.74</td>
<td>1.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOₓ mg/l</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO₄ mg/l</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO₄ mg/l</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The temperature was characterized by a gradual rise during June, July, August and September as well as decreases during January and February. The air temperature ranged from 7.60-36.25°C and affected by water temperature ranging between 11.80-30.65°C, while the pH ranged from 6.89-7.70. The water was characterized by alkalinity, pH increased in February and November because of the impact of the river on household residues, hypothermia, lack of organic decay and the lack of water plants and phytoplankton (Abowei and George, 2009; Al-Saadi, 2013). The values of conductivity arranged from 1040-1816 mg/L and the total hardness ranged from 315-599 mg/L. The increase of these two factors in the studied site is due to the increase in the salt from the water added to the river from the Tharthar arm, which brings the water from the Tigris and Euphrates River and the Tharthar had highly increased water levels and falling rainfall and the residues of agricultural fertilizers are washed out of the land adjacent to the river as well as the presence of the animal manure (Al-Tamimi, 2006).

Biological Study

The present study enabled the diagnosis of a group of algae, which was marked by its presence throughout the study period. 27 taxonomic units were recorded belong to sixteen genus the dormancy of the Chlorophyta and Cyanophyta (12 species of each other's) followed by the Euglenophyta algae (two species) and one type of Pyrrophyta, Algae as one new species added to the Iraqi list, (Table 2).

### Table 2 : Species of phytoplankton were recognized in month study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taxon</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Botryococcus braunii</em> Kuetzing</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Chroococcus limneticus</em> Lemmermann</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Chroococcus turidus</em> (Kuetz.) Naegeli</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Cosmarium speciosum</em> Lund.</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Crucigenia fenestrate</em> Schmidle</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Crucigenia tetrapedias</em> (Kirchner) West And West</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Glenodinium quadrident</em> (Stein) Schiller</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lepocinclis playfairiana</em> Deflandre</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lepocinclis salina</em> Fritsch</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lyngbya martensiana</em> Meneghini.</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Merismopedia elegans</em> A. Braun</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Merismopedia minima</em></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Nostoc sp.</em></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Oocystis borgei</em> Snow</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cyanophyta spread of many environments marine or freshwater and soil, because of exhibiting a high level of adaptability to different environments, as well as ability to adapt for unfavorable environmental conditions.

Cyanobacteria could contribute to bioremediation of polluted areas (Radha et al., 2014).

Describe some species that recorded of the months study.

- **Oscillatoria Formosa** Bory.  
  + + + + + + + - - + + - 
- **Oscillatoria limnetica** Lemmermann.  
  + + + + + + - - - - + 
- **Oscillatoria laevis** (Kleb.)Geitler.  
  + + + + + + + - - + - 
- **Oscillatoria sancta** (Kuetz)Gomont.  
  + + + + + + - - - - - 
- **Oscillatoria prolifica** (Grev.)Gomont  
  + + - - - - - + + + + 
- **Pediasastrum simplex** var. etratrum  
  + + - - - - + + + + + 
- **Pediasastrum tetras** var.  
  + - - - - - + + + + 
- **Pediasastrum duplex** var. etratrum Lagerm.  
  + + + + + + + + + + 
- **Scenedesmus dimorphus** (Trup.) Kuetz.  
  + + - - - - - + + + + 
- **Scenedesmus obtusus** (Trup.) Kuetzing  
  + + - - - - - + + + + 
- **Spirulina nordstedtii** Gomont  
  - + - - - - + + - - - 
- **Tetraedron minimum** (A.Br.)Hans  
  + + - - - - + + - - - 
- **Westella botryoides** (W. West) de Wildeman  
  - - + + + + + + + - 

**Division**: Chlorophyta  
**Class**: Chlorophyceae  
**Order**: Chlorococcales  
**Family**: Oocystaceae  
**Genus**: *Crucigenia fenestrate* Schmidle (Fig. 3, Pl.1) (Prescot, 1982, Pl.65, Fig. 5, p. 284; Nural-Islam and Begum,1970, Pl. 4, Fig. 112.)

Colony of a 4 cells, arranges about a square opening; colony 8.8-17.6 µ wide and 11-19.8 µ long; cells 2.2-5.5 µ in diam., 4.4-6.6 µ long; found in D.U. Bot. garden reservoir in April and May.

- **Oocystis borgei** Snow (Fig.4, Pl.1)  
  + + - - - - + + - - + 

**Division**: Chlorophyta  
**Class**: Chlorophyceae  
**Order**: Chlorococcales  
**Family**: Oocystaceae  
**Genus**: *Oocystis borgei* Snow (Fig.4, Pl.1)  

(Fig. 1, Pl.1) (Prescot, 1982, Pl.52, Figs. 1,2,11) Cells ellipsoidal, radiately arranged at the periphery of irregularly shaped usually dark-colored masses of mucilage; free floating; colonial mucilage much folded and extended in to touch, foamy strand, often forming colonial complexes by interconnecting strands of mucilage; chloroplast a thin, or dense, parietal net with 1 pyrenoid, covering only a portion of the wall; starch and oil droplets present, individual cells invested by a layer of fatty substance and an outer layer of pectin, cells 3-6µ in diameter 6-12µ long. Common and often abundant, especially in semi-hard water lakes.

- **Division**: Chlorophyta  
  **Class**: Chlorophyceae  
  **Order**: Chlorococcales  
  **Family**: Dictyosphaeriacae  
  **Genus**: *Westella botryoides* (W. West) de Wildeman (Fig. 2, Pl. 1) (Nural-Islam and Begum, 1970, Pl. 4, Figs. 102-103; Prescot, 1982, Pl. 53, Figs. 14)

Cells spherical and grouped in fous: loose colony; groups are held together by the remnant of the gelatinous mothers membrane; 4.8-7.7 in diam., colony 15.4-39.6 µ in diam., found in Mirpur Majar pond, ditch near Kamalapur and Aga Mosih Lane mosque tank from April to November.

- **Division**: Chlorophyta  
  **Class**: Chlorophyceae  
  **Order**: Chlorococcales  
  **Family**: Oocystaceae  
  **Genus**: *Pediastrum*  
  **Species**: *Pediastrum duplex* var. etratrum Lagerm. (Fig. 5, Pl. 1) (Nural-Islam and Begum, 1970, Pl. 7, Figs. 222-223; Nural-Islam and Zaman,1975, Pl. 3, Figs. 23; Prescot,1982, Pl. 49, Fig.1, p.224)

Oute margins of the peripheral cells having lobes with sub-parallel sides; inner cells nearly H-shaped; outer cells 4.4-15.4 µ wide, 8.8-19.8 µ long; inner 2.3-17.6 µ wide, 6.6-17.6 µ long; found in high court pond,
Ganderia mosque tank and D.U. Bot. garden reservoir in April and June.

**Genus**: *Pediastrum*

**Species**: *Pediastrum simplex var. catathratum*.

(Fig. 6, Pl. 1)

(Nural-Islam and Begum, 1970, Pl. 7, Fig. 226; Pl. 8, Fig. 228; Nural-Islam and Zaman, 1975, Pl. 3, Figs. 25, 26, 30)

Coenobium 8-32 celled; cells more deeply emarginated and perforation larger and oval-round; inner cells 6.6-14.3 µ wide, 19.8-24.2 µ long; found in pond in Zinzira, Narinde bridge mosque tank, Ram-Krishana Mission Road mosque tank in May, November and December.

**Genus**: *Pediastrum*

**Species**: *Pediastrum tetras* fa. (Fig. 7, Pl. 1)

(Nural-Islam and Begum, 1970, Pl. 8, Fig. 238; Prescot, 1982, Pl. 50, Fig. 3, 6, p. 227)

The peripheral cells are furnished with long bilobed processes; cells 6.6 µ in diam., 7.7 µ long; found in secretariat mosque tank in June.

Division : Chlorophyta

Class : Chlorophyceae

Order : Chlorococcales

Family : Oocystaceae

**Genus**: *Scenedesmus*

**Species**: *Scenedesmus dimorphus* (Trup.) Kuetzing. (Fig. 8, Pl.)

(Nural-Islam and Begum, 1970, Pl. 5, Figs. 162-168; Prescot, 1982, Pl. 63, Fig. 8, 9, p. 277)

Colony of 4 or 8 fusiform cells, arranges in a single or alternate series; cells 2.2-6.6 µ wide and 11-22 µ long; very common and found in high court pond D.U. Bot. garden reservoir, Mirpur Majar pond and many other ditches and ponds all through out the year.

**Genus**: *Scenedesmus*

**Species**: *Scenedesmus obliquus* (Turp.) Kuetzing. (Fig. 9, Pl.)

(Nural-Islam and Begum, 1970, Pl. 5, Figs. 180-184; Prescot, 1982, Pl. 63, Fig. 17, p. 229)

Colony of 2-8 fusiform cells with abruptly tapering ends, wall smooth; cells 2.2-4.4 µ in diam., 11-22 µ long; found in D. U. Bot. garden reservoir, high court pond, Dhanmondi lake, Ramna lake and many others almost all throughout the year.

Division : Chlorophyta

Class : Chlorophyceae

Order : Chlorococcales

Family : Oocystaceae

**Genus**: *Tetraedron minimum* (A.Br.) Hans. (Fig. 10, Pl.)

(Nural-Islam and Begum, 1970, Pl. 1, Fig. 11-12. p.234, p.256; Prescot, 1982, Pl.60, Fig. 12-15. p. 267)

Cell small, flat, tetragonal, lobes sometimes cruciately arranged, 6.4-8.8 µ in diam.; young cells 4.4-6.6 µ in diam.

Division : Euglenophyta

Class : Euglenophyceae

Order : Euglenales

Family : Euglenaceae

**Genus**: *Lepocinclis*

**Species**: *Lepocinclis playfairiana* Deflandre (Fig. 11, Pl.)

(Prescott, 1982, p. 227 Pl.89. Fig. 16)

Cells broadly oval with a short caudus, slightly narrowed and sharply rounded anteriorly, the gullet and flagellum attachment lateral to the apex, where there is a slight invagination on the right side; periplast smooth; paramylon bodies 2 large circular or oval rings; cells 28-30 µ in diameter, 46-48 µ long.

*Species: Lepocinclis salina* Fritsch. (Fig. 12, Pl. 1)

New Record


(*New record in Iraq according to Maulood et al. 2013*)


Division : Pyrrhophyta

Class : Dinophyceae

Order : Peridiniales

Family : Glenodiniaceae

**Genus**: *Glenodinium quadridens* (Stein) Schiller. (Fig. 13, Pl. 1)

(Prescott, 1982, P1. 90, Figs. 19, 20, p. 430).

Cells ovate, the epicone apiculate, the hypocone broadly rounded and furnished with 3-5 short, sharp spines, laterally and posteriorly placed; transverse furrow not spiral, usually median and equally diving the cell; longitudinal furrow extending into the epicone, widening posteriorly and reaching the apex of the hypocone; epitheca with 1 apical, 5 intercalary, and 7 precingular plates; hypotheca with 5 postcingular and 2 antapical plates with a stout spine on each; cells 20-35 µ in diameter, 24-30 µ long.)

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Pl. 1: Phytoplankton diversity in the samples: 1- Botryococcus braunii, 2- Westella botryoides, 3- Crucigenia fenestrata, 4- Oocystis borgei, 5- Pediastrum duplex var. reticulatum, 6- Pediastrum simplex var. cataphratum, 7- Pediastrum tetras, 8- Scenedesmus dimorphus, 9- Scenedesmus obliquus, 10- Tetraedron minimum, 11- Lepocinclis playfairiana, 12- Lepocinclis salina, 13- Glenodinium quadridens. Scale bar indicates 10 µm.

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