

**ORIGINAL ARTICLE****Diversity of Aquatic Macrophytes in Kamanpoor Pond and Agraharam Pond of Karimnagar District, Telangana****A. Shailaja and M. Aruna**

Department of Botany, Telangana University, Dichpally, Nizamabad (T.S), India

Email: drarunatu@gmail.comReceived: 14th Sept. 2016, Revised: 15th Nov. 2016, Accepted: 21st Nov. 2016**ABSTRACT**

The aim of the present study is to document the Aquatic Macrophytes of Kamanpoor and Agraharam ponds located in Karimnagar district of Telangana State, South India. The present experimental work of identification of macrophytes was carried out during the period August 2015- July 2016. The Aquatic Macrophytes collected from the site were identified and were categorized as three life forms submerged, floating and emergent. The genera were recorded. They majorly belonged to the families Alismataceae, Araceae, Convolvulaceae, Cyperaceae, Characeae Nymphyaceae and Hydrocharitaceae.

Key words: Aquatic Macrophytes, Kamanpoor, Agraharam, Eco-system

INTRODUCTION

The Aquatic Macrophytes are of considerable ecological and economic importance. They contribute significantly to the productivity of water bodies, mobilize mineral elements from the bottom sediments and provide shelter to aquatic invertebrates and fishes. They also respond to the changes in water quality and have been used as indicator of pollution in several cases.

The sampling of aquatic macrophytes is a tedious work and depends on the type of habitat, type of vegetation, variation and distribution of vegetation. Studies related to aquatic and wetland flora were globally carried earlier by Sen and Chatarjee 1959; Subramanyan 1962; Vyas 1964; Mishra 1974; Boylen and Sheldon (1976), Srivastava *et al*, 1987; Baruah and Baruah 2000; Dhote and Dikshit 2007; Deshkar 2008; and Chandra *et al*, 2008. "Aquatic Macrophytes" is a term given to a vast category of aquatic vascular plants. In certain cases however the term has been used to include even the microscopic algae and member of the group Bryophyta. The Aquatic Macrophytes occur mainly in the hollow regions of lakes, ponds, pools, marshes, streames and rivers etc. Macrophytes colonize many different types of aquatic ecosystems, such as lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, streams, rivers and marine environments.

MATERIALS AND METHODS**STUDY SITE:**

Karimnagar District lies between 18° 28' Northern latitude and 79° 06' Eastern longitudes. Kamanpoor pond located at Karimnagar Mandal, and Agraharam pond (Fig. 1) located at vemulawada Mandal, Karimnagar District of Telangana State was chosen to study and document the diversity of Aquatic Macrophytes.

DATA COLLECTION:

Qualitative survey was carried out during the period Aug 2015 to July 2016. The aquatic macrophytes were collected on site some of them were directly pulled by hand; few were picked out with suitable aids and were placed into large polythene covers. They were brought to the laboratory, sorted out species wise, identified with the help of regional floras, standard taxonomic manuals and manuals of aquatic plants. A set of these specimens were vouchered number wise. Taxonomic description and identification characters were noted in filed notes and these specimens were preserved in the laboratory for herbarium purpose.

Fig. 1: Agraharam Pond



RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Aquatic macrophytes collected during survey period were presented in Table 1 & 2. In the present paper an attempt was made to explore the aquatic wealth of Kamanpoor pond & Agraharam pond with reference to aquatic macrophytes. In the present work macrophytes identified belonging to different families were recorded. It was observed that the emergent aquatic macrophytes were abundantly found when compared to submerged forms. Macrophytes release oxygen which adds to the dissolved oxygen of the water. Aquatic macrophytes act as indicators of water quality and reduce pollution also. Some aquatic plants are used by humans as a food source. Examples include water caltrop (*Trapa natans*), Chinese water chestnut (*Eleocharis dulcis*), Indian lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*) and Water spinach (*Ipomoea aquatica*).

Few of the aquatic macrophytes collected from Kamanpoor pond and Agraharam pond are categorized as follow shown based on their habit (Fig. 2).

1. SUBMERGED MACROPHYTES:

In largely or completely submerged plants the roots may or may not be present. (*Potamogeton*, *Ceratophyllum*, *Vallisneria*). Most submerged aquatic macrophytes belong to the families Ceratophyllaceae, Haloragaceae, Hydrocharitaceae, Nymphaeaceae and Potamogetonaceae. These macrophytes are found in various types of water bodies, including estuaries, rivers, lakes, ponds, natural depressions, ditches, swamps and floodplains. Like other macrophytes, they compete with phytoplankton for nutrients, decreasing the productivity of the water and causing hindrance to the movement of fish, irrigation and navigation.

2. EMERGENT MACROPHYTES:

Plants not submerged in water they are further subdivided into two categories.

- **Erect leafed Emergent plants:** Rooted plants with principle photosynthetic surfaces projecting above the water (Typha, Skirpus, etc.)
- **Floating leaved emergent plants:** Rooted plants with floating leaves

3. FLOATING MACROPHYTES:

The crown of the plants floating on the water surface.

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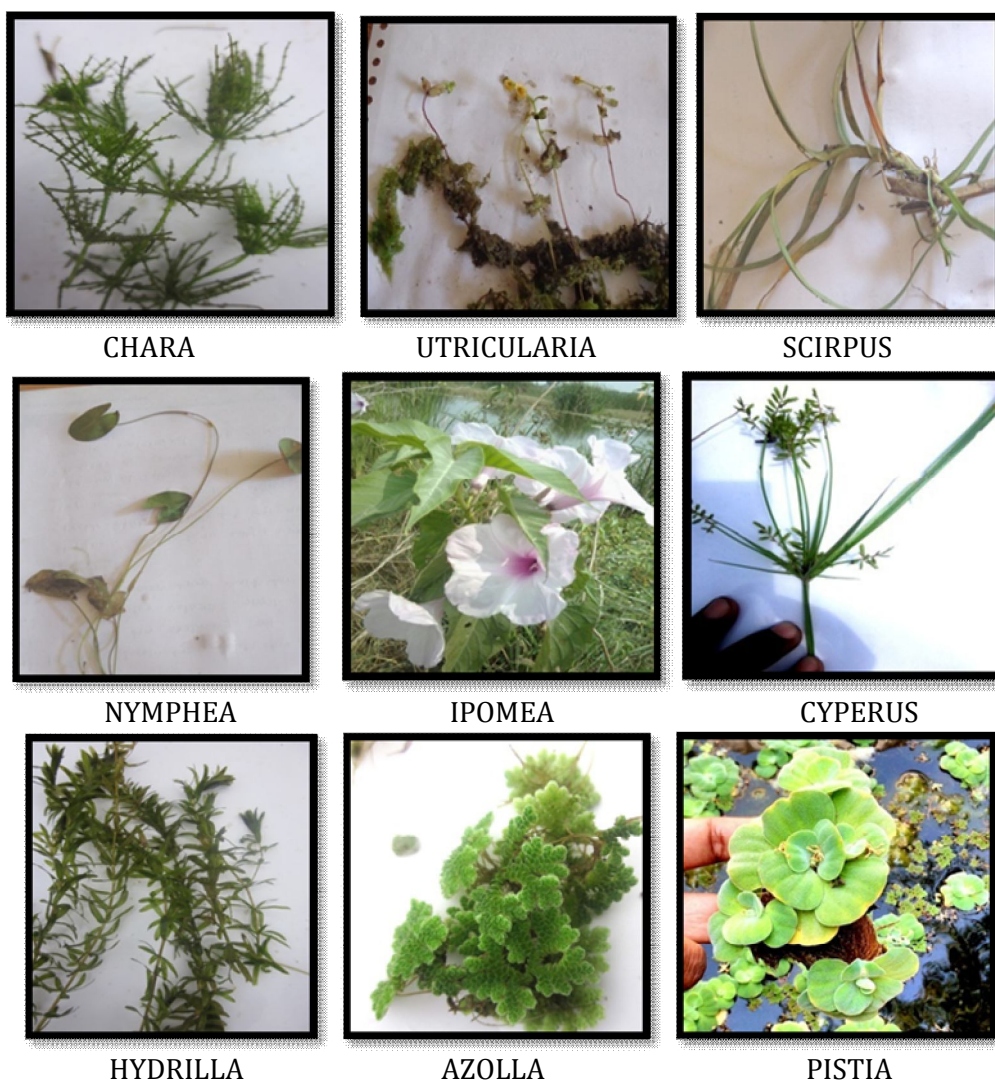
Table 1: List of Macrophytes Identified From Kamanpur Pond

Scientific name	Common name	Family	Life form
<i>Trapa natans</i>	Water nut	Alismataceae	Critically endangered
<i>Sagittaria</i>	Duck potato	Alismataceae	Emergent
<i>Ipomia aquatic</i>	Water spinach	Convolvulaceae	Emergent
<i>Hydrilla verticillatae</i>	Indian stargrass	Hydrocharitaceae	Submerged
<i>Nitella terrestris</i>	Stonewort	Characeae	Submerged
<i>Submersum</i>	Horn wort	Ceratophyllaceae	Submerged
<i>Ipomea aquatic</i>	Water spinach	Convolvulaceae	Emergent

Table 2: List of Macrophytes Identified From Agraharam Pond

Scientific name	Common name	Family	Life form
Chara	Scoring rushes	Characeae	Submerged
Utricularia	Bladder worts	Lentibulariaceae	Submerged
Skirpus cernuns	Fiber optics grass	Cyperaceae	Emergent
Nymphia pubescence	Water lilly	Nimpheaceae	Floating
Pistia stratiotes	Water lettuce	Araceae	Floating
Cyperus rotundus	Flat sedge	Cyperaceae	Emergent
Ipomia carnea	Pink morning glory	Convolvulaceae	Floating
Cyperus rotundus	Flat sedge	Cyperaceae	Emergent

Fig. 2: Showing Macrophytes Collected from Kamanpur and Agraharam Ponds



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