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Diversity and Abundance of Zooplankton, in Karingali Wetland of Central Tranvencore, Kerala.

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Abstract

Zooplankton is a diverse group of heterotrophic organisms and plays a vital role in recycling nutrients as well as cycling of energy within their respective environment. They are considered as a good indicator, as it responds to the various changes occurring in their surrounding environment. The present study deals with the species diversity of zooplankton in the Karingali wetland of Central Travancore, Kerala, with the help of diversity indices, i.e., Shannon-Weiner index and Simpson's dominance index. The work was carried out for a period of one year, from January 2021 to December 2021. During this study, a total of 25 species of zooplankton were identified from the Karingali wetland. The major zooplankton groups identified were Rhizopoda, Rotifera, Cladocera, and Copepoda. Among these, Rotifers comprises 10 species, eight Cladocera, four Copepoda, and three Rhizopoda. A percentage comparison among the various zooplankton species reveals that the rotifers were the dominant group forming 41% of the zooplankton, followed by 34% of cladocerans, 21% of copepods, and 4% of Rhizopoda. It