

Epiphytic and epipsammic diatom communities of Gölbaşı Lake (Adıyaman-Turkey)

Gölbaşı Gölü (Adıyaman-Türkiye)'nün epifitik ve epipsammik diatom toplulukları

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Received date: 21.01.2016

Accepted date: 18.05.2016

How to cite this paper:

Çağlar, M. & Pala, G. (2016). Epiphytic and epipsammic diatom communities of Gölbaşı Lake (Adıyaman-Turkey). *Ege Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*, 33(3): 193-199. doi: [10.12714/egejfas.2016.33.3.02](https://doi.org/10.12714/egejfas.2016.33.3.02)

Abstract: The present study examined certain physical and chemical parameters in epiphytic and epipsammic diatoms identified on *Potamogeton perfoliatus* and *Chara sp.* collected from an area of one square kilometers in Gölbaşı Lake located within the borders of Adıyaman city from March to October 2014. Over the course of the study, 14 taxa belonging to epiphytic diatoms and 24 taxa of epipsammic diatoms were identified. Among the epiphytic diatoms, *Amphora ovalis*, *Diatoma vulgare* and *Ulnaria ulna* were the most significant ones in terms of abundance and individual occurrences, while among the epipsammic diatoms the most remarkable ones were *Navicula salinarum*, *Navicula radiosa*, *Nitzschia linearis* and *Cyclotella comta* with regard to abundance and individual occurrences. According to Sorensen Index the highest similarity (78%) was found between diatoms on *Potamogeton perfoliatus* and *Chara sp.* The similarity between epiphytic and epipsammic diatoms was only as high as 26% and 30%. Accordingly, the macrophyte preference of diatoms as a substratum was to a large extent similar. Diatoms displayed the highest level of development in late spring and summer, when there is more light and temperatures are higher.

Keywords: Epiphytic diatoms, Epipsammic diatoms, Sorensen Similarity Index, Gölbaşı Lake, East Anatolia, Turkey

Öz: Bu çalışmada Adıyaman il sınırları içinde bulunan Gölbaşı Gölü'nden Mart- Ekim 2014 tarihleri arasında bir kilometrekarelik alandan toplanan *Potamogeton perfoliatus* ve *Chara spp.*'nin epifitik ve epipsammik diatomeleri bazı fiziksel ve kimyasal parametreler ile birlikte araştırılmıştır. Araştırma süresince epifitik diatomelere ait toplam 14 takson, epipsammik diatomelere ait toplam 24 takson kaydedilmiştir. Epifitik diatomeler içerisinde ortaya çıkış sıklıkları ve birey sayıları ile en dikkat çeken türler *Amphora ovalis*, *Diatoma vulgare* ve *Ulnaria ulna* olurken; epipsammik diatomeler içerisinde ise ortaya çıkış sıklığı ve birey sayıları itibarıyla en dikkat çeken türler *Navicula salinarum*, *Navicula radiosa*, *Nitzschia linearis* ve *Cyclotella comta* olmuştur. *Potamogeton perfoliatus* ve *Chara sp.* üzerindeki diatomeler arasında Sorensen benzerlik indeksi %78 çıkmıştır. Epifitik ve epipsammik diatomeler arasındaki benzerlikler ise %26 ve %30 gibi değerlerde çıkmıştır. Substrat olarak diatomelerin makrofitleri tercihinde büyük bir benzerlik görüldü. Diatomeler en iyi gelişimlerini ışığın ve sıcaklığın arttığı ilkbahar sonları ile yaz aylarında göstermişlerdir.

Anahtar kelimeler: Epifitik diatome, epipsammik diatome, Sorensen benzerlik indeksi, Gölbaşı Gölü, Doğu Anadolu, Türkiye

INTRODUCTION

Human beings use water sources for a multitude of purposes including agriculture, transportation, irrigation, and consumption as food and drink. The major source of food in water is fish and other aquatic organisms. In this context, in order to develop and maintain the populations of aquatic organisms obtained from our inland waters, it is of pivotal importance to identify algae, the first link of the food chain. Producing their own food through photosynthesis, these living things constitute the first link in the food chain and are the primary producers of the aquatic environments. As they produce organic substances from inorganic ones, supply oxygen to the medium, and function as food to other consumer

organisms, algae form a vital part of the life-support system in water (Ahiska and Atıcı, 2005).

Turkey has 906118 hectares of natural lakes, 18000 hectares of dam lakes, and 145000 km of a network of rivers. As a country rich in inland water resources and with a view to making more efficient use of these resources and turning them into sources of food and revenue, identification of algae in the aquatic environments is crucial (Çetin and Yavuz, 2001).

Aiming to identify the epiphytic diatom flora of Hazar Lake (Suluçayır Plain), Pala (2014) collected samples from *Ranunculus rinoii* and *Ranunculus aquatilis* within monthly

periods from September 2006 to August 2007 and noted that, among the epiphytic algae, the species that were significant in terms of abundance and individual occurrences were *Amphora ovalis*, *Synedra ulna*, *Cymbella affinis*, and *Epithemia turgida*.

Studying the composition of benthic algal communities and the seasonal change in epipelagic algae in Lake Uzun (Trabzon) from April 1991 to March 1993, Şahin (1998) showed that the dominant group of algae among benthic algal communities was Bacillariophyta. It is well-known that recent years have seen an increase in the number of studies (Kılınc and Sivaci, 2000; Pala and Çağlar, 2006; Pala, 2007; Pala and Aker, 2014) about our inland waters. Besides, with the growing awareness of algae in still waters and rivers, the number of studies on these organisms also increased considerably.

The present study aims to examine the epiphytic and

epipsammic diatoms and certain physical and chemical characteristics of Gölbaşı Lake in Adıyaman with a view to contributing to the identification of the algal flora of our inland waters of Turkey.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Gölbaşı Lake positioned to the north of Gölbaşı in Adıyaman province is located between 37° 48' 00" latitude and 37° 38' 48" longitude (Figure 1). Gölbaşı Lake is a tectonic lake and the altitude of lake is 885m, the lake covers a field of approximately 3 km² (Toroglu and Toroglu, 2009).

In this study aiming to identify the epipsammic and epiphytic diatoms of Gölbaşı Lake, samples were collected from an area of 1 km² periodically from March to October 2014



Figure 1. The Sampling area in Gölbaşı Lake (Google, 2014)

The temperature and pH values of the lake water were measured on the field using an Electromag brand field pH meter; dissolved oxygen was measured on the field using a YSI model 51B field oxygen meter and hardness values of the water were analysed in the laboratory using the titrimetric method (APHA, 1985). Table 1 presents the minimum and maximum values found in these analyses. The portable devices used on the field were calibrated using stable solutions before going to the field. Cell numbers of epipsammic and epiphytic diatoms identified in per ml were counted according to method given in Round (1953). In order to identify the taxa of epiphytic and epipsammic diatoms, the samples were treated with 50% H₂SO₄ and 50% NHO₃ and permanent preparations were obtained (Round, 1953).

Data obtained from the epiphytic and epipsammic diatoms of Gölbaşı Lake were compared using Sorensen Similarity Index (Sorensen, 1948). Relevant sources were used in the identification of taxa (Germain, 1981; Patrick and Reimer, 1966, 1975; Krammer and Lange-Bertalot, 1986, 1988, 1991a and 1991b).

RESULTS

In order to show certain physical and chemical properties of Gölbaşı Lake, surface water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH and hardness values were measured in monthly periods from March to October 2014 and the results of these measurements are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Data from the physical and chemical analyses of Gölbaşı Lake

	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.
Dissolved Oxygen (mg O ₂ /L)	8.0	8.1	7.8	6.8	5.9	5.4	4.3	5.0
pH	7.9	8.0	8.0	8.4	7.9	7.8	8.4	8.7
Temperature (°C)	12.0	12.5	14.0	17.5	19.5	20.5	21.0	17.5

Over the course of the study, as temperatures increased, a decrease was found in the dissolved oxygen values. Gölbaşı Lake was found to have the highest temperature (21°C) in September and the lowest temperature (12°C) in March; the highest dissolved oxygen (8.2 mg/L) in March and the lowest dissolved oxygen (4.3 mg/L) in September; the highest pH (8.7) in October and the lowest pH (7.8) in August (Table 1)

A total of 14 taxa of epiphytic diatoms were identified on the *Potamogeton perfoliatus* L. plant collected from Gölbaşı Lake (Table 2). As the Table shows, the most noteworthy taxa in terms of individual occurrences per ml are *Diatoma vulgare*, *Amphora ovalis* and *Ulnaria ulna*. Individual occurrences of *Diatoma vulgare* in May were the highest individual occurrences, while cell counts of *Gomphonema olivaceum* in October were the lowest individual occurrences recorded on this macrophyte (Table 2).

Based on a careful examination of Table 2, the presence of some taxa in the environment despite the absence of others or some taxa having higher abundance and individual occurrences than other taxa suggest that these diatoms make more effective use of the conditions in their environment. In other words, this can be taken as an indicator of the ability of these taxa to adapt to different living environments.

The monthly count of individual cells per ml of epiphytic diatoms recorded on *Potamogeton perfoliatus* L. is presented in Table 2.

The epiphytic diatoms identified on *Chara sp.*, a plant found only during 4 particular months, but not in others over the year in Gölbaşı Lake belonged to a total of 9 taxa. *Ulnaria ulna*, *Navicula radiosa*, and *Diatoma vulgare* were found to have higher individual occurrences than other diatoms (Table 3)

Table 2. The monthly count of individual cells per ml of epiphytic diatoms recorded on *Potamogeton perfoliatus*

Taxon	Marc.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
<i>Cyclotella ocellata</i> Pantocsek	11	17	19	13	10	9	7	5
<i>Amphora ovalis</i> Kütz.	18	21	25	17	11	12	9	7
<i>Cocconeis pediculus</i> Ehr.	14	16	13	14	9	6	3	-
<i>Cymbella affinis</i> Kütz.	17	19	18	16	12	8	5	2
<i>Cymbella cistula</i> (Hemp.) Kirchner	13	15	12	9	9	7	4	3
<i>Diatoma vulgare</i> Bory de Saint-Vincent	24	28	30	25	22	19	14	11
<i>Encyonema prostratum</i> (Berkeley) Kütz.	9	12	12	10	9	7	3	-
<i>Gomphonema olivaceum</i> (Hornemann) Brebisson	13	15	14	12	7	5	3	1
<i>Gomphonema Helveticum</i> Brun.	11	15	13	10	9	7	5	3
<i>Navicula radiosa</i> Kütz.	17	17	20	18	12	10	6	4
<i>Navicula tripunctata</i> (O.F.Müll.) Bory.	15	18	16	14	11	9	7	5
<i>Nitzschia palea</i> (Kütz.) W.Smith	14	17	19	13	9	7	7	4
<i>Nitzschia dissipata</i> (Kütz.) Robenhorst	10	15	14	8	10	5	2	-
<i>Ulnaria ulna</i> (Nitzsch.) P.Compere	18	20	22	25	17	13	11	9

Table 3. Cell numbers per ml of epiphytic diatoms recorded on *Chara sp.*

Taxon	Marc.	Apr.	May	Jun.
<i>Cyclotella ocellata</i> Pantocksek	13	17	9	5
<i>Amphora ovalis</i> Kütz.	16	19	13	11
<i>Cymbella affinis</i> Kütz.	15	12	9	3
<i>Cymbella cistula</i> (Hemprich) O. Kirchner	13	16	7	5
<i>Diatoma vulgare</i> Bory de Saint- Vincent	18	19	15	13
<i>Gomphonema olivaceum</i> (Hornemann) Brebisson	12	17	13	11
<i>Navicula radiosa</i> Kütz.	19	21	23	17
<i>Nitzschia palea</i> (Kütz.) W. Smith	15	17	14	13
<i>Ulnaria ulna</i> (Nitzsch.) P. Compere	17	20	24	22

Cell numbers per ml of epipsammic diatoms identified in Gölbaşı Lake are presented in Table 4. As Table 4 shows, a total of 24 taxa belonging to epipsammic diatoms were

recorded in Gölbaşı Lake. The highest number of individual occurrences of epipsammic diatoms were recorded in late spring and summer.

Table 4. Cell numbers per ml of epipsammic diatoms identified in Gölbaşı Lake

Taxon	Marc.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
<i>Cyclotella comta</i> (Ehr.) Kütz.	15	18	24	32	29	24	20	12
<i>Cyclotella ocellata</i> Pantocksek	13	15	17	22	19	15	12	9
<i>Stephanodiscus hantzschii</i> Grun.	7	13	18	19	15	9	7	4
<i>Cymbella cistula</i> (Hemprich) O. Kirchner	18	20	31	36	38	25	17	14
<i>Cymbella parva</i> (W. Smith) Cleve	14	16	21	23	20	17	13	9
<i>Cymbella prostrata</i> (Berkeley) Cleve	9	13	16	18	14	11	11	8
<i>Cymbella obtisiuscula</i> (Kütz.) Grun.	15	17	19	16	13	10	6	-
<i>Cymbella proxima</i> Reimer in Patrick & Reimer	-	9	12	14	9	5	-	-
<i>Diatoma hyemala</i> (Roth) Heiberg	-	13	17	19	20	13	8	-
<i>Diatoma vulgare</i> Bory de Saint-Vincent	13	18	24	32	29	21	16	12
<i>Epithemia sorex</i> Kütz.	-	-	13	17	19	9	4	-
<i>Epithemia argus</i> (Ehr.) Kütz.	-	15	16	19	11	7	5	2
<i>Fragilaria bidens</i> Heiberg	2	8	13	16	14	11	6	-
<i>Gomphonema gracile</i> Ehr.	-	6	10	14	16	12	8	4
<i>Gomphonema truncatum</i> Ehr.	7	12	15	16	19	8	3	-
<i>Navicula cincta</i> (Ehr.) Ralfs.	-	11	17	25	30	27	20	15
<i>Navicula radiosa</i> Kütz.	16	19	17	22	36	28	19	13
<i>Navicula salinarum</i> Grunow	14	22	26	27	33	29	21	17
<i>Navicula tryblionella</i> Hantzsch	9	11	15	17	21	15	9	6

<i>Nitzschia linearis</i> (Agardh) W. Smith	11	22	36	39	29	20	19	9
<i>Sellaphora bacillum</i> (Ehr.) D.G. Mann	11	13	14	16	19	11	-	-
<i>Surirella robusta</i> Ehr.	7	15	13	17	10	9	4	-
<i>Ulnaria acus</i> (Kütz.) M. Aboal	5	15	14	12	11	7	2	-
<i>Ulnaria ulna</i> (Nitzsch.) P. Compere	16	25	37	-	-	-	-	-

The similarities between epiphytic diatoms, and between epiphytic and epipsammic diatoms were analysed using

Sorensen Similarity Index (Sorensen, 1948) and the results of this analysis are presented in Table 5.

Table 5. Results of the Sorensen (Similarity) Index analysis between epiphytic diatoms on *Potamogeton perfoliatus* and *Chara sp.* and epipsammic diatoms

<i>P.perfoliatus</i> - <i>Chara sp.</i>	<i>P. perfoliatus</i> -epipsammik	<i>Chara sp.</i> -epipsammik
78%	26%	30%

As can be seen in Table 5, the highest similarity (78%) was found between *Potamogeton perfoliatus* and *Chara sp.* The similarity between epiphytic and epipsammic diatoms was only as high as 26% and 30%. Accordingly, the macrophyte preference of diatoms as a substratum was to a large extent similar.

DISCUSSION

In this study, mean values for dissolved oxygen and pH were found as 6.4 mg/L and 8.1 respectively. According to these findings, Gölbaşı Lake water is in class II in term of inland water quality criterion given by Uslu and Türkman (1987).

Over the course of the study a total of 14 taxa belonging to epiphytic diatoms and 24 taxa of epipsammic diatoms were recorded in Gölbaşı Lake. Since these diatoms were dominant in terms of both abundance and individual occurrences, other algae were ignored.

In this study, *Cyclotella ocellata*, *Cymbella cistula*, *Diatoma vulgare*, and *Ulnaria ulna* were identified among both epiphytic and epipsammic diatoms. This result may indicate that these diatoms, in comparison to others, are better able to use environmental conditions to their advantage.

In the study, *Cocconeis pediculus*, *Encyonema prostratum*, *Gomphonema helveticum*, *Navicula tripunctata* and *Nitzschia dissipata* were found to be the only epiphytic diatoms found on *Potamogeton perfoliatus* plant, while *Cyclotella comta*, *Stephanodiscus hantzschii*, *Cymbella parva*, *Cymbella prostrata*, *Cymbella obtisiuscula*, *Cymbella proxima*, *Diatoma hyemale*, *Epithemia sorex*, *Epithemia araus*, *Fragilaria bidens*, *Gomphonema gracile*, *Gomphonema truncatum*, *Navicula cincta*, *Navicula salinarum*, *Nitzschia linearis*, *Navicula tryblionella*, *Sellaphora bacillum*, *Surirella robusta* and *Ulnaria acus* were the diatoms found only in the epipsammic flora. The presence of certain diatom taxa only in one community

demonstrates that diatoms have specific incidence characteristics.

That diatoms are more significant than other groups of algae in terms of both abundance and individual occurrences, and the resulting negligence of other algae has been reported in studies conducted in lakes both in our country and abroad (Round, 1981; Temel, 1992; Pala, 2014).

In his study about algal communities in Altınapa Dam Lake and Meram Stream, Yıldız (1987) found that diatoms were dominant and abundant in comparison to other algae in both water bodies and that dominant species of epiphytic and epilithic diatoms in Altınapa Dam Lake were *Synedra delicatissima*, *Navicula cryptocephala*, *Nitzschia palea*, *Cymbella microcephala*, *Cymbella amphicephala*, *Gomphonema olivaceum* and *Navicula crypcephala*. This result is similar to ours in terms of identified species with the exception of *Gomphonema olivaceum* and *Nitzschia palea*.

Aiming to examine the epiphytic diatom flora of Hazar Lake (Suluçayır Düzü), Pala (2014) collected samples from *Ranunculus rinoii* and *Ranunculus aquatilis* in monthly periods from September 2006 to August 2007 and noted that, among epiphytic algae, *Amphora ovalis*, *Synedra ulna*, *Cymbella affinis* and *Epithemia turgida* were important species with regard to abundance and individual occurrences. The identification of *Amphora ovalis*, *Cymbella affinis* and *Ulnaria ulna* to have significant individual occurrences in our study is similar to finding of Pala (2014).

Cox (1984) emphasized that light was the major factor in the seasonal distribution of diatoms. Likewise, Round (1973) stated that diatoms grew well in spring and early summer, while their growth was lower in the period from July to October. In the same vein, Lund (1965) noted that temperature and light were main factors affecting the development of algae. In the present study, the abundance and individual occurrences of diatoms showed seasonal variations, though to a small extent. The

species composition and individual occurrences of epipsammic diatoms were found to be the highest in spring and summer and the lowest in autumn. This result suggests that water temperature and intensity of light were effective on the propagation of diatoms.

In relation to the increase in the number of diatoms in Gölbaşı Lake over the summer, it was already reported in other studies (Stanly and Daly, 1976) that benthic algae responded very well to increased temperature and light in summer.

Round (1957) and Butcher (1946) described most diatoms to be species that are fond of alkali water. *Cocconeis placentula*, *Cymbella ventricosa*, *Gomphonema parvulum* and *Gomphonema olivaceum*, in particular, were found to be dominant organisms in alkali water. In Gölbaşı Lake, however, only *Gomphonema olivaceum* from among these diatoms was found, while others were not present.

Cymbella spp., *Navicula spp.* and *Ulnaria spp.* identified among the epiphytic and epipsammic diatoms in Gölbaşı Lake

were usually reported to be the typical benthic species of inland waters (Hutchinson, 1957).

Chessman (1986) noted that *Navicula* and *Nitzschia* were cosmopolite species. The identification of *Navicula* and *Nitzschia* in both the epiphytic and epipsammic flora in our study lends support to result of Chessman (1986).

As the studies summarized above show, the dominant organisms in the lakes are diatoms. This dominance can be interpreted as an indication that, when compared to other groups of algae, diatoms make better use of the conditions in freshwater. The present study aims to examine the epiphytic and epipsammic diatoms and certain physical and chemical characteristics of Gölbaşı Lake in Adıyaman with a view to contributing to the identification of the algal flora of inland waters in Türkiye.

In consideration of the continuous presence of diatoms in the epiphytic and epipsammic algal groups, it can be concluded that diatoms are cosmopolitan algae that are found on all substrata.

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