

Study of population structure and biodiversity of algae in Aras River

Somayeh Ghaffari¹

Jafar Razeghi^{2*}

Reza Ramazannejhad Ghadi³

Adel Dabagh Mohamadi Nasab⁴

Mortaza Masoudi⁵

1, 2. Department of Cellular and Developmental Biology of Plants, University of Bielefeld, Bielefeld, Germany

4. Department of Ecophysiology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Tabriz, Tabriz, Iran

5. Department of Plant biology, Faculty of Science, Tarbiat modares University, Tehran, Iran

***Corresponding author:**

jafar_razeghi@tabrizu.ac.ir

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Abstract

Aras River is one of the largest rivers of Caspian Sea Basin in Northwest of Iran which plays an important role in regional water supply for various uses. This study executed in area from Siahrood to Aras Dam Lake in the summer of 2017. Sampling, identification, enumeration and recording demographic changes in different terms of growth season was performed for each of 7 stations for three months. Identified genera (32 genera) belong to *Bascillariophyta*, *Chlorophyta*, *Cyanophyta* and *Dinophyta*. Diatoms with 18 genera, *chlorophyta* with 8 genera, *Cyanophyta* with 5 genera and then *Dinophyta* with one genus were most dominant phylum in Aras River, respectively. The highest algae density at the beginning and end of the growing season was due to the *Navicula* genus of *Bascillariophyta* and the *Oedogonium* genus of the *Chlorophyta* phylum.

Keywords: Aras River, Algae, Population structure, Biodiversity study.