

Impact of some physico-chemical factors of water on the diversity and distribution of Mollusca in Lake Nasser (Egypt)

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ABSTRACT

The present study aimed to assess the diversity and distribution of Mollusca under the impact of some physico-chemical variables in Lake Nasser, Egypt. Bottom fauna was sampled for 4 seasons in 2013 and 2 seasons (winter & summer) in 2015 from the main channel of Lake Nasser and two main of its khurs (Dahmit Khur and Tushka West Khur). The study revealed the predominance of gastropods over bivalves. A total of 10 taxa of freshwater molluscs were recorded, 7 species from Gastropoda and 3 species of Bivalvia representing 95 % and 5% of the total population density of molluscs respectively. Numerically, *Valvata nilotica* was the most abundant taxa followed by *Gyraulus ehrenbergi*, *Melanoides tuberculata* and *Bulinus truncatus*. *Spharium simile* and *Pisidium pirothi* showed less frequent appearance, whereas *Cleopatra bulimoides* and *Corbicula fluminalis* were recorded as rare taxa. Relationship between the total number of individuals of molluscs and environmental parameters were determined by Canonical Correspondence Analysis (CCA). The results of analysis revealed a significant correlation between the total number of Mollusca and some environmental parameters, such as dissolved oxygen, pH, depth, transparency. Additionally, *Ferrissia* sp. was firstly recorded from Lake Nasser.

Keywords: Mollusca community, Lake Nasser, diversity, Physico-chemical parameters, CCA.

INTRODUCTION

Lake Nasser is very vital to Egypt; it provides more than 95 % of the Egyptian freshwater budget. It has a long, narrow shape, in particular of its southern part; Lake Nubia (ElShemy, 2010). Lake Nasser is one of the largest artificial water reservoirs worldwide. The lake was created with the construction of Aswan High Dam 5 km upstream of Aswan city in Upper Egypt in 1964. It has an irregular shape with many embayments called "Khurs"; 48 lie on the eastern side and 37 on the western one (Entz, 1974). The Nile flood comes once a year in late August originating from the Ethiopian highlands. It carries a heavy load of mud consisting of a mixture of sand, silt and clay so it is known by high turbidity.

Benthos includes several species of organisms, which cut across different phyla including annelids, arthropods, molluscs. Molluscs are extremely important community of many ecological communities. They prove immensely beneficial both economically and medicinally (Wosu, 2003). Freshwater mollusc communities are important in terms of biodiversity and ecosystem health. They play significant roles in the public and veterinary health and thus need to be scientifically explored more extensively (Supian and Ikhwanuddin, 2002). Freshwater molluscs are useful tools as pollution indicators through assessments of the mollusc community composition and monitoring the heavy metal contamination (Wang *et al.*, 2004; Yang *et al.*, 2005; Jou and Liao, 2006). However, siltation from agriculture, organic pollution, pesticides, heavy metal loading and habitat degradation has threatened the freshwater molluscs.

These large invertebrates can be considered metabolic reactors because they transferr nutrients and energy from water to sediments by filtering, biodeposition of faeces and pseudofaeces, nutrient mineralization (Spooner and Vaughn, 2006) stimulating the production across trophic levels (Vaughn and Spooner, 2006). A lot of researchers have studied the ecology and population dynamics of the gastropods which play an important role in the health of man and his livestock (Kloos *et al.*, 2001; Ahmed and Elaa, 2003; Karimi *et al.*, 2004; Canˆ ete *et al.*, 2004; Mageed, 2006; Kazibwe *et al.*, 2006; Mostafa, 2009). Mollusca are suitable candidates to be used in biomonitoring surveys of Lake Qarun in Egypt (Fishar and Ali, 2006).

These organisms is considered to be affected by environmental factors, like physico - chemical parameters (Garg *et al.*, 2009), availability of food, competition, predator-prey interactions (McMahon *et al.*, 1974; Lassen, 1975; Ofoezie, 1999), substrate architecture (Kershner and Lodge, 1990) and macrophytes (Bronmark, 1985; Costil and Clement, 1996; Ofoezie, 1999).

The objective of present work is to enlist the Mollusca of Lake Nasser perceiving the impact of some physico-chemical variables for a period of one year and half. Further, the results obtained can make an effective contribution to holistic water quality assessment and the riverine management studies.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Area of study

The Main channel of Lake Nasser:

Lake Nasser (Fig. 1) has an area of about 5248 km², a mean depth of 21.5-25.5 m (maximum 90 m) and a width of 8.9 to 18.0 km at 160 and 180 m above MSL, respectively. It lies between latitudes 22° 00`-23° 58`N and longitudes 31° 19`-33° 19`E.(El Serafy *et al.*, 2009).The investigation includes selection of five sectors (Up - Stream, Wadi Abyad, Kurusko, Tushka and Abu-Simble) from the main channel of Lake Nasser (Fig.1& Table1). Fauna was collected from three sites (East, Middle, West) of each sector.

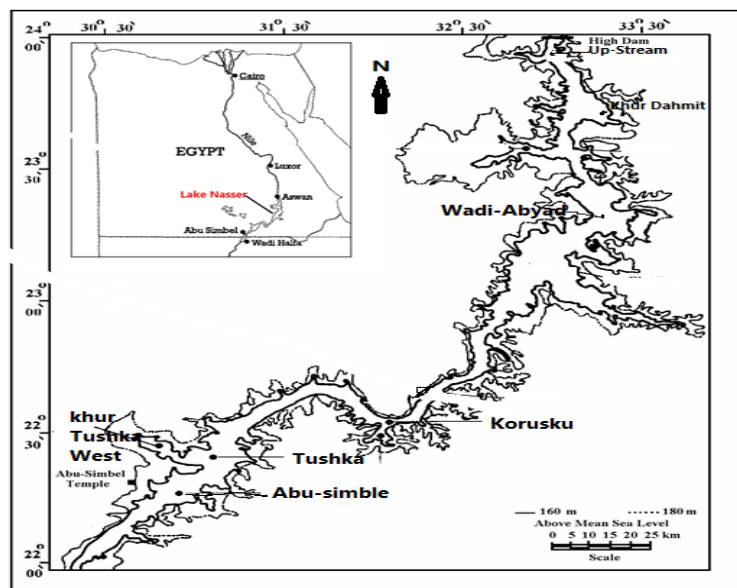


Fig. 1: Map of Lake Nasser showing the selected sectors and khurs of the study.

Table 1: Latitudes, longitudes and the distance from High Dam for the studied sectors of the main channel of Lake Nasser.

Sectors of the main channel	Lat.	Long.	Distance from High Dam (Km)
Up-Stream	23° 56.24'	32° 51.89'	2.9
Wadi-Abyad	23° 20.08'	32° 56.12'	74.3
Kurusko	22° 37.65'	32° 24.14'	167.2
Tushka	22° 36.32'	31° 55.21'	240
Abu-Simble	22° 19.71'	31° 37.14'	268.8

Khurs of Lake Nasser

Two main khurs of Lake Nasser (Tushka West khur and Dahmit khur) were selected for sampling. On the bases of quantitative and qualitative analysis, the benthic fauna were sampled at many sites covering of each Khur. They are 6 stations from Khur Tushka West (Table 2). Ten stations from Khur Dahmit were sampled (Table 3).

Table 2: Latitudes and longitudes of the sampling stations of Khur Tushka West.

Stations of Khur Tushka West	Lat.	Long.
St.1	22°37'50.12"	31°41'35.19"
St.2	2°36'0.97"	31°40'42.09"E
St.3	22°35'49.49"	31°46'21.53"
St.4	22°34'25.82"	31°44'44.18"
St.5	22°33'14.10"	31°43'17.78"
St.6	22°32'1.51"	31°47'3.32"

Table 3: Latitudes and longitudes of the sampling stations of Khur Dahmit.

Stations of Khur Dahmit	Lat.	Long.
St.1	23°43'12.85" N	32°48'27.64"E
St.2	23°42'50.55" N	32°49'17.07"E
St.3	23°42'32.24" N	32°50'5.93"E
St.4	23°43'54.75" N	32°49'40.58"E
St.5	23°41'50.11" N	32°49'38.03"E
St.6	23°43'12.55" N	32°50'21.36"E
St.7	23°41'54.40" N	32°51'0.57"E
St.8	23°42'34.49" N	32°51'56.98"E
St.9	23°41'35.87" N	32°52'1.63"E
St.10	23°40'40.05" N	32°51'30.01"E

Sampling

Mollusca were collected seasonally during 2013 and 2015 (winter and summer) by collecting bottom samples by the Ekman Grab bottom sampler, covering an area of about 0.03 m². After collection, the sediment with bottom fauna was washed thoroughly in a small hand net of bolting silk (0.5 mm mesh size). In the laboratory, the molluscs were isolated and picked in and preserved immediately in 10 % neutral formalin solution in polyethylene jars. However, preserved samples of molluscs were identified with the help of Ward and Whipple (1959), Tonapi (1980), Brown (1980), Ibrahim *et al.* (1999). The abundance of these organisms was calculated as a number per square meter by applying the following formula:

$N = O/A.S \times 10,000$ (Welch, 1948). Where, N = no. of macrobenthic organisms (Mollusca) /m²; O = no. of organisms (Mollusca) counted; A = area of metallic sampler in square centimeter; S = no. of samples taken at each station.

Temperature, pH, dissolved Oxygen and electrical conductivity were measured by Multiparameters Water. Model Senso Direct 150. Transparency was measured by Secchidisc (black and white 20 cm in diameter). Depth also was measured by Eco-Sounder, Lowrance Sonar X- 25 model at each site at the same time of sampling. Type of substrate was detected according to Folk (1974). Carbonate (CO_3^{2-}) and bicarbonate (HCO_3^-) were measured at Chemistry Lab.

Data Analysis

We analyzed the faunistic and environmental data by means of different multivariate techniques Canonical Correspondence Analysis - using the CANOCO program Version 4.0 (TEa Braak & Smilauer, 1998). Canonical Correspondence Analysis (CCA) (TEa Braak, 1986) is a multivariate analysis technique developed to relate community composition to known variation in the environment. It is a form of direct gradient analysis where a set of species is related directly to a set of environmental variables. The ordination axes were derived as linear combinations of environmental variables, and individual taxa were related to these axes assuming an unimodal response. The lengths of the arrows in the ordination diagram are proportional to the influence of these variables in species data variation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The average values of measured physico-chemical parameters at the stations of the main channel of Lake Nasser and its Khurs are shown in Tables 4 & 5 respectively. The water temperature ranged between 17.3°C and 30.4°C in the whole Lake and it followed the air temperature. Temperature has no significant correlation with Mollusca species in this study area. This agrees with Zeybek *et al.* (2012) who found no significant correlation between temperature and Mollusca species *B. pseudemmericia*, *F. pfeiferi*, *H. complanatus* and *R. auricularia*.

Table 4: Means and ranges of some physico-chemical parameters at sampling sites of the main channel during the whole period of study. (- = not recorded, E= East, M= Middle, W= West, Temp.= Temperature, E.C. = Electrical conductivity, Trans.= Transparency)

Main channel sectors		substrate	DO (mg/l)	depth (m)	Temp. ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	pH	E. C. (mS/cm)	CO_3^{2-} (mg/l)	HCO_3^- (mg/l)	Trans. (cm)
Up Stream	E	Sandy mud	5.15	32	17.6-27.6	7.20-8.47	210	0.0	122	312
	M	Sandy mud		98	17.3-25.3	6.84-8.31	209	0.0	122	372
	W	Sandy mud		15	18-28.8	7.72-8.53	223	0.0	122	316
Wadi Abyad	E	Gravelly, sandy mud	4.7	8	18.4-29	7.96-8.48	216	3.84	107.36	348
	M	Gravelly, sandy mud		77	18-24.8	7.61-7.92	207	2.56	102.48	396
	W	Gravelly, sandy mud		22	18.6-28.8	7.52-8.23	207	3.2	107.36	320
Kurusko	E	Muddy sand	5.1	20	18.4- 29	7.95-8.47	221	0.0	107.36	206
	M	Sandy mud		74	18.3-29.2	7.43-8.37	207	3.6	102.48	225
	W	Muddy sand		11	19.5-30.4	7.65-8.70	217	3.2	104.4	222
Tushka	E	Muddy sand	5.58	16	19.3-28.2	8-8.64	214	4.48	105.4	250
	M	Sandy mud		65	18.1-26.5	7.56-8.33	207	6.4	100.04	227
	W	Muddy sand		10	19.4-27.6	7.67-8.55	215	5.12	102.5	213
Abu Simble	E	Muddy sand	6.05	18	19.1-28.2	7.79-8.81	201	3.4	87.84	180
	M	Sandy mud		56	18-28.5	8.21-8.35	205	9.6	97.6	210
	W	Muddy sand		5	18.2-27.3	8.23-8.30	225	0.0	--	260

Table 5: Means and ranges of some physico-chemical parameters at Khur Dahmit and Khur Tushka West during the whole period of study. (Temp.= Temperature, E.C. = Electrical conductivity, Trans.= Transparency)

	site	substrate	DO (mg/l)	Depth (m)	Temp. (°C)	pH	E.C. (mS/cm)	Hco ₃ ⁻ (mg/l)	Co ₃ ⁻⁻ (mg/l)	Tranc. (cm)
Dahmit	1	Mud	7.0	21.5	19.8-23.9	8.2-8.7	262.8	102.48	3.2	255
	2	Mud	8.2	15	20.9-25.8	8.5	255.8	112.24	3.6	252.5
Khur	3	Mud	6.2	22.5	20.1-21	8.0-8.4	262.6	107.36	0.0	200
	4	Mud	6.5	14	20-23.9	8.2-8.5	270.8	107.36	1.6	235
	5	Mud	7.4	14	21.7-23.6	8.3-8.4	264.1	97.60	4.8	260
	6	Mud	6.8	17	20.1-22.5	8.0	266.6	102.48	0.0	285
	7	Mud	8.1	22	21.4-24.8	8.3-8.7	256	109.8	1.28	250
	8	Mud	7.1	12.5	20.6-22.7	7.5-8.2	264.5	107.36	1.28	283.5
	9	Mud	7.9	12	22.4-25.6	8.1-8.2	252.5	107.36	1.6	245
	10	Mud	8.2	8	21.8-25	8.3	240.8	107.36	2.6	330
Tushka West Khur	1	Muddy Sand	7.1	18	22.2-26.7	8.3-8.7	224.7	87.84	3.6	180
	2	Muddy Sand	8.4	9	22.1-27.6	8.5-8.7	224.3	87.84	2.6	198
	3	Muddy Sand	8.2	12.5	21.5-27.7	8.4-8.7	228.5	92.72	3.6	188
	4	Muddy Sand	5.6	25.5	22.2-23.5	8.0-8.6	225.5	92.72	4.0	160
	5	Muddy Sand	8.2	7.5	22.4-26	8.3-8.8	230	92.72	4.8	190
	6	Muddy Sand	5.7	29	21.3-23	8.1-8.5	238.7	97.60	1.1	233

Transparency in the Lake is directly affected by flood. The highest transparency was observed at Up Stream and Wadi Abyad sectors, comparing with the southern ones (Tushka-Abu Simbel) which are affected by the flood. pH in the lake is slightly alkaline (6.84-8.81). The high pH values may be attributed to increased photosynthetic activity during the rainy season which reduced the amount of CO₂ in the water (Khalil *et al.*, 2013; Abu Bakr and Yakasai, 2015).

The dissolved oxygen (DO) range was 4.7 –6.05 mg/l in the main channel and it was lower than the average DO for khurs (5.6 –8.4 mg/l). This low range of DO in the whole lake may be due to increase of organic matter and decomposition of the organic matter also leads to consumption of DO (Siraj *et al.*, 2010; Abdel Gawad & Mola, 2014; Abu Bakar and Yakasai, 2015). Kołodziejczyk *et al.* (2009) mentioned that anoxia might be such a disaster to the molluscs species in eutrophic lakes.

Electrical conductivity (E.C.) ranged between 201 and 270.8 mS/cm in the Lake and its khurs. This range agrees with the results of Iskaros and El Dardier (2010) in Lake Nasser. The E.C. is affected by water temperature (Gindy & Dardir, 2008). Thus, the relative increase of E.C. during summer and autumn particularly at the surface was coincided with the high water temperatures which lead to the hydrolysis and redissolution of insoluble salts and subsequently their adsorption onto the lake water.

Fig. 2 shows the percent contribution of different species of Mollusca in the main channel, Khur Dahmit and Khur Tushka West respectively.

The mollusc's ecological features, such as life habit, mode of respiration, sexual reproduction and ability to withstand desiccation, may determine the mollusk community structure in eutrophic lakes.

In the present study, 7 taxa belonging to Gastropoda and 3 taxa belonging to Bivalvia were identified. Of the gastropods, *Valvata nilotica* Jickeli, 1874, *Melanoides tuberculata* (Muller, 1774), *Cleopatra bulmoides* Oliver, 1804, *Physa acuta* Draparnaud, 1805, *Bulinus truncatus* Audouin, 1827 *Gyraulus ehrenbergi* Beck, 1837 and *Ferrissia* sp. were recorded. Bivalvia, *Spharium simile* Say, *Pisidium pirothi* Jickeli and *Corbicula consobrina* Muller, 1874 were identified.

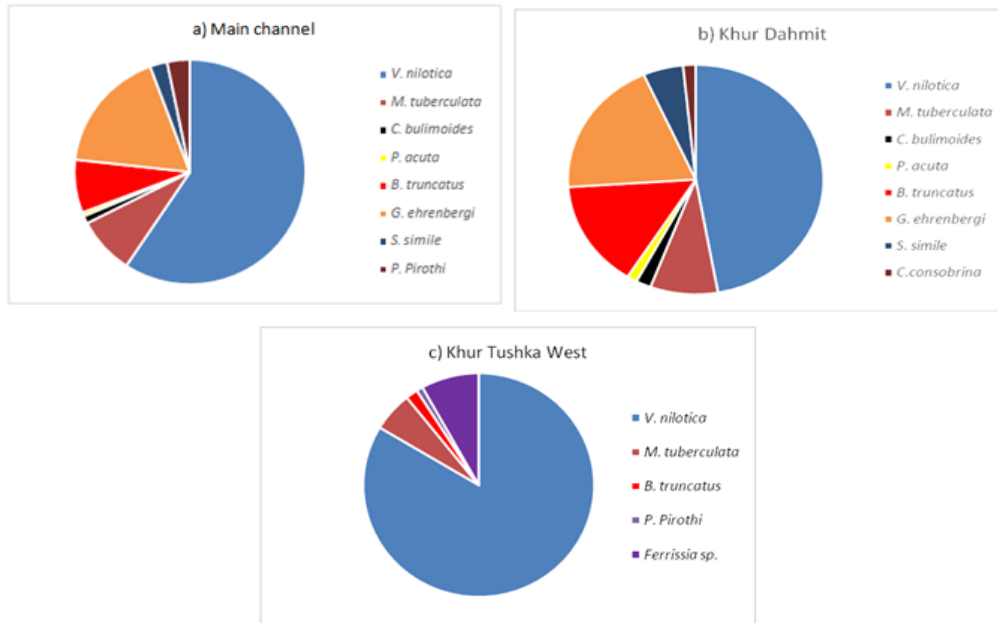


Fig. 2: a,b,c: Pie charts showing percent contribution of different Gastropoda and Bivalvia to the total Mollusca population at the study area.

The mean densities of Mollusca at different sampling sites were different from each other. The highest mean densities of Mollusca (348 individual/m² and 315 individual/m²) were observed at Khur Tushka West and Khur Dahmit respectively. This disagrees with Mola and Abdel Gawad (2014) who recorded no living Mollusca at Khur Tushka. In the main channel of the lake, the average density of Mollusca was less than their densities in the khurs; it was 183 individual/m² in the whole channel during this study. The highest average density (288 individual/m²) was observed at Dahmit sector in the main channel, while the lowest (135 individual/m²) was observed at sector Abu Simble (Table 6).

Table 6: The averages of Mollusca density at each site of the main channel and khurs during the whole period of study. (E= East, M= Middle, W= West).

Main channel sectors	Sites of sectors	Mollusca at sites of main channel	Mollusca at sector of main channel	Sites of Khur Dahmit	Mollusca at Khur Dahmit	Sites of Khur Tushka West	Mollusca at Khur Tushka West
Up Stream	E	165	142	1	0.0	1	33
	M	65		2	281	2	116
	W	197		3	83	3	1188
Wadi Abyad	E	67	288	4	0.0	4	0.0
	M	133		5	0.0	5	495
	W	660		6	149	6	55
Kurusko	E	396	175	7	297		
	M	66		8	2267		
	W	66		9	0.0		
Tushka	E	98	173	10	99		
	M	32					
	W	390					
Abu Simble	E	136	135				
	M	34					
	W	234					

The most abundant species in the sampling area throughout the study period were *Valvata nilotica*, *Gyraulus ehrenbergi*, *Melanoides tuberculata* and *Bulinus truncatus* (Fig. 2).

They appeared in all of the sampling sites, while the others appeared only in some of the stations. The scarce of *Pisidiumpirothi* and *Sphariumsimile* (Fig. 3) during this study may be due to the nature of the substrate. These species always distribute in the stony or sandy bottom but the substrate is covered by organic material load in course of eutrophication (Zettler and Daunys, 2007). Anoxia and changing of substrate and fish species composition might be possible explanations why benthic molluscs have been changed and decreased in the eutrophic Lake Daincha (China) (Du *et al.*, 2011). This opinion may explain the decrease and scarcity of Mollusca in Lake Nasser during this study.

Ferrissia sp. appeared for the first time in Lake Nasser specially at Khur Tushka West (Fig. 3). Prosobranchs are often sensitive indicators of water quality because of widespread geographic distribution and obligate contact with aquatic environment (Duft *et al.*, 2007).

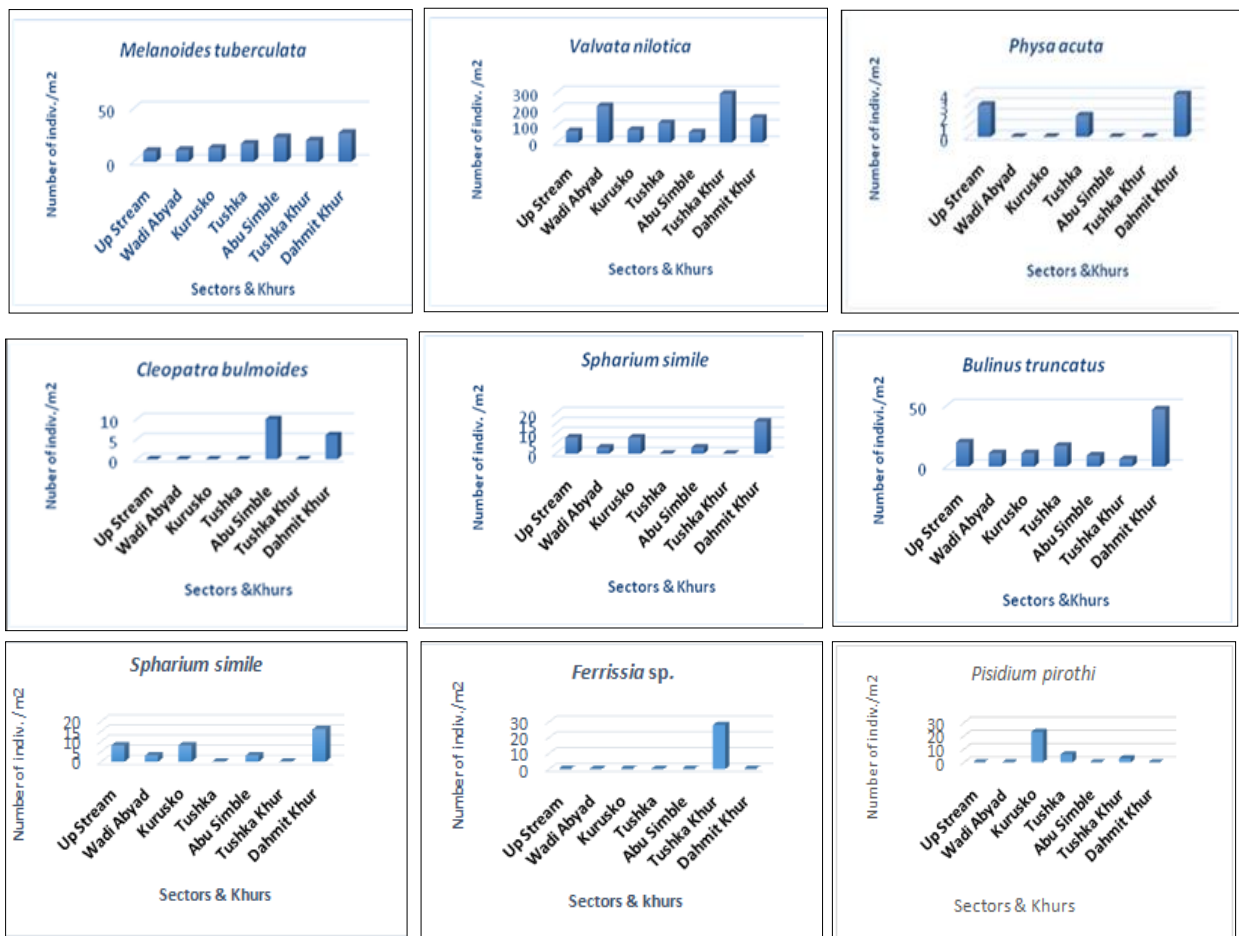


Fig. 3: Distribution patterns of Mollusca (individual/m²) collected from Lake Nasser and its khurs.

Predominance of gastropods over bivalves was registered in this study, which is in agreement with Sharma *et al.* (2009), Sharma *et al.* (2013) and Abdel Gawad and Mola (2014) who also recorded similar predominance of gastropods in The Jammu division of J&K State India, Gho- Manhasan stream, Jammu (J&K) India, and in the Main Channel of Lake Nasser, Egypt, respectively.

Canonical Correspondence Analysis (CCA) between Mollusca species and environmental parameters.

At Main Channel

Canonical Correspondence Analysis (CCA) was carried out for analyzing 6 environmental variables with 8 Mollusca species (Fig. 4). Analysis indicated that, the most important factors affecting the distribution of these species were pH, E. C. and bicarbonate. The CCA biplot diagram has shown that the E. C. has a positive correlation with *P. acuta*, while depth recorded a negative correlation with *Cleopatra bulimoides*

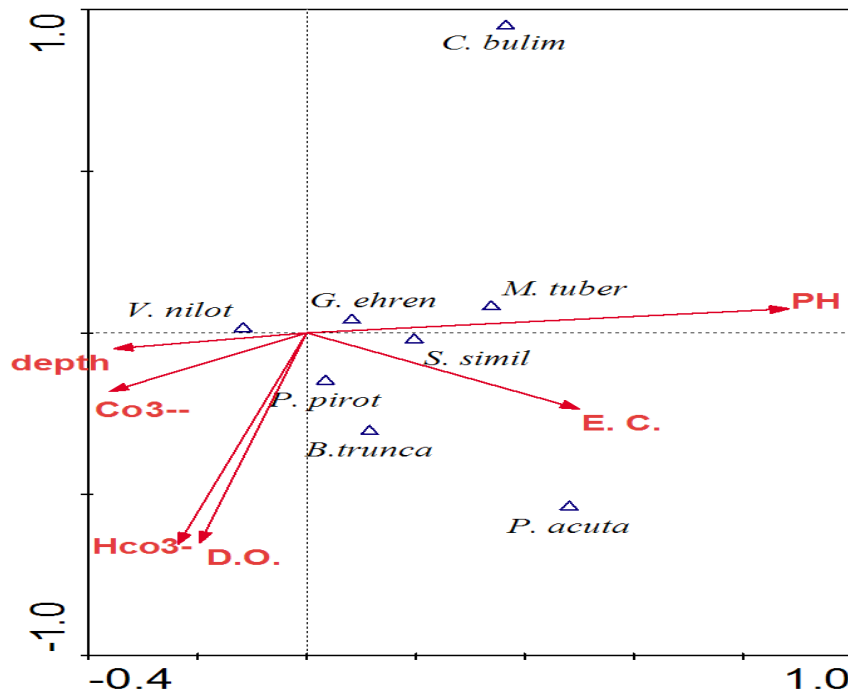


Fig. 4: CCA ordination a biplot diagram based on Mollusca species with environmental variables at main channel of Lake Nasser. Species codes (*V. nilot.* = *Valvata nilotica*, *G. ehern* = *Gyraulus ehrenbergi*, *M. tuber.* = *Melanoides tuberculata*, *S. simil.* = *Spharium simile*, *P. acuta* = *Physa acuta*, *B. trunca.* = *Bulinus truncatus*, *P. pirot* = *Pisidiumpirothi*, *C. bulim.* = *Cleopatra bulimoides*)

At Khur Dahmit.

Canonical Correspondence Analysis (CCA) was carried out for analyzing 7 environmental variables with 6 Mollusca species at Khur Dahmit (Fig. (5)). Analysis indicated that, the most important factors affecting the distribution of Mollusca species were depth, bicarbonate (HCO_3^-), transparency and pH. The CCA biplot diagram showed that the depth recorded a positive correlation with *S. simil.* but it has recorded a negative correlation with transparency.

At Khur Tushka West

Canonical Correspondence Analysis (CCA) was carried out for analyzing 7 environmental variables with 5 Mollusca species at khur Tushka West (Fig.6). Analysis indicated that, the most important factors affecting the distribution of Mollusca species were DO, depth, transparency, pH and carbonate (CO_3^{--}). The CCA biplot diagram showed that the transparency, E.C. and bicarbonate recorded a positive correlation with *Bulinus truncatus*. while carbonate recorded a positive correlation with *Ferrissi* sp.

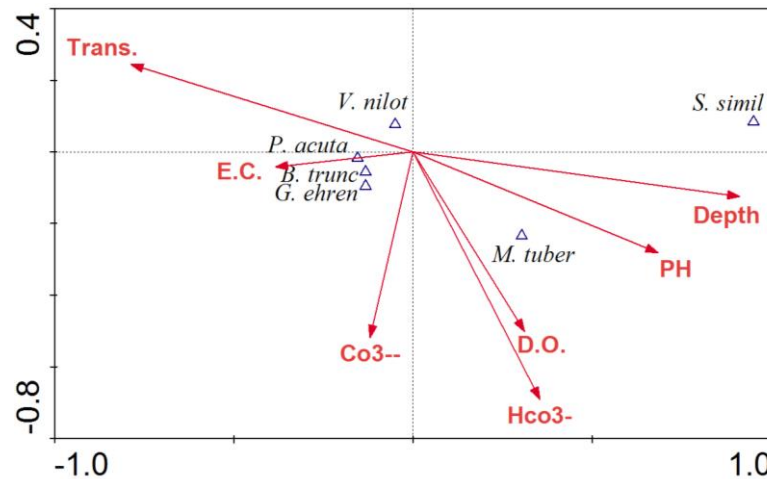


Fig. 5: CCA ordination a biplot diagram based on Mollusca species with environmental variables at Khur Dahmit. Species codes (*V. nilot.* = *Valvata nilotica* , *G. ehern* = *Gyraulus ehrenbergi* , *M. tuber.* = *Melanoides tuberculata* , *S. simil.* = *Spharium simile* , *P acuta* = *Physa acuta* , *B. trunca* = *Bulinus truncatus* .

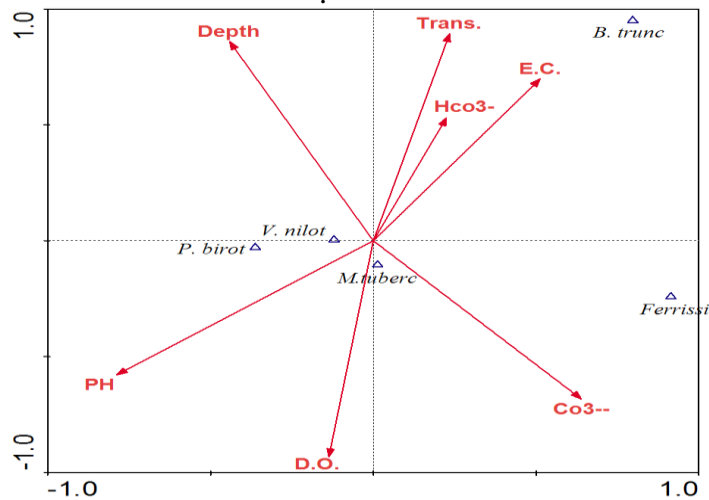


Fig. 6: CCA ordination a biplot diagram based on Mollusca species with environmental variables at Khur Tushka West. Species codes (*V. nilot.* = *Valvata nilotica* , *G. ehern* = *Gyraulus ehrenbergi* , *M. tuber.* = *Melanoides tuberculata* , *B. trunca* = *Bulinus truncatus* , *P. pirot* = *Pisidium pirothian* and *Ferrissi.* = *Ferrissia* sp. .

Zeybek *et al.* (2012) found that some gastropods such as *B. pseudemmericia*, *F. pfeiferi*, *H. complanatus*, *R. auricularia* were positively correlated with DO values. *B. pseudemmericia*, *G. lacustrisurca*, *F. pfeiferi*, *H. complanatus*, *R. auricularia* and *T.h. heldreichi* were positively correlated with pH values. Dissolved oxygen levels of the water were a significant parameter for the abundance of especially Prosobranchia species (Yıldırım, 1999). Some Prosobranchia species could be found in waters with low DO levels (Hart and Fuller, 1974). Şahin and Zeybek (2016) recorded that dissolved oxygen (DO), pH, were the most influential variables on the Mollusca fauna. This information support our results. CCA results of the present study supported also by Okland's (1990) conclusion that pH is often considered major factor determining the distributions of freshwater snails.

Survival and growth rates of *Huliotis irison* experimental substrata were significantly greater in deep comparing with shallow habitat (McShane and Naylor, 1995). Depth was a consistently significant factor associated with variation in the postsettlement survival of *H. iris*, but a number of other factors covary with depth.

These factors include wave action, rates of sedimentation and light intensity. Wave action in shallow habitat was insufficient to move the experimental substrata, but it may have caused the dislodgement of recruits (Schiel, 1993).

It has been concluded, although our knowledge to species ecology is still somewhat limited, results cannot be generalized to many species. However, the levels and the type of such variables differ from species to another. Knowledge of species characteristics can help to increase our understanding of aquatic molluscs and their importance in ecological and biological studies. Further detailed studies on each of these individual parameters and Mollusca are needed

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ARABIC SUMMARY

تأثير بعض الخواص الفيزيائية والكيميائية للمياه على تنوع وتوزيع الرخويات في بحيرة ناصر مصر

سعاد سعد عبد الجواد

المعهد القومى لعلوم البحار والمصايد (مصر)

تمت دراسة تأثير بعض العوامل الفيزيائية والكيميائية على تنوع وتوزيع الرخويات في المجرى الرئيسى لبحيرة ناصر واثنين من اخوارها خلال اربعة فصول لسنة 2013 بالاضافة الى فصلى الشتاء والصيف لسنة 2015 وقد تم تجميع الرخويات وفصلها من التربة وتعريفها 0 كما تم قياس درجات الحرارة والاس الهيدروجينى والشفافيه والتوصيل الكهربى والاكسجين الذائب والعمق وكذلك الكربونات والبيكربونات 0 اوضحت الدراسة عن وجود عشرة انواع من الرخويات منها سبعة من بطنية القدم وثلاث من ذوات المصراعين وقد كانت بطنية القدم اكثر تنوعا وانتشارا وتعدادا فى البحيره عنها من ذوات المصراعين 0 كانت كثافة الرخويات فى الاخوار اكثر منها فى المجرى الرئيسى للبحيرة 0 وقد كانت *Valvata nilotica Gyraulus ehrenbergi. Melanoides tuberculata, Bulinus truncatus phariumsimile, Pisidium pirothi, Cleopatra bulimoides, Corbicula fluminalis* هى الاقل توزيعا وانتشارا فى منطقة الدراسة وتم تسجيل نوع *Ferrissiasp.* لأول مرة فى البحيرة وخصوصا فى خور توشكا الغربى 0

تم تحديد العلاقة بين العدد الكلى لأفراد الرخويات والقياسات البيئية المختلفة بواسطة التحليل الاحصائى (CCA) و اشارت نتائج التحليل عن وجود علاقة ذات دلالة إحصائية بين انواع من الرخويات وبعض العوامل البيئية مثل الأكسجين الذائب ودرجة الحموضة والعمق والشفافية. وعلى الرغم من ان معرفتنا البيئية للأنواع لا يزال محدودا إلى أن هذه العلاقات لا يمكن تعميمها على العديد من الأنواع. ومع ذلك، فإن نوع المتغير وتأثيره يختلف من نوع إلى اخر فى الرخويات 0 ومعرفة خصائص الأنواع يمكن أن تساعد على زيادة فهمنا لرخويات المياه العذبة وأهميتها فى الدراسات البيئية والبيولوجية وهناك حاجة لدراسات تفصيلية أخرى على كل من هذه المعايير منفردة.