

SEASONAL VARIATION OF PHYTOPLANKTON IN TUYEN LAM RESERVOIR IN DA LAT, VIETNAM

Tran Thi Tinh¹, Doan Nhu Hai², Le Ba Dung¹

¹Da Lat University, Vietnam, *tinhtt_env@yahoo.com

²Nha Trang Institute of Oceanography, VAST

ABSTRACT: Seasonal variation and phytoplankton dynamics in Tuyen Lam reservoir in Da Lat city, Viet Nam were studied in the rainy and dry seasons (during January through December, 2014). Samples were taken monthly from 3 stations of Tuyen Lam reservoir. The aim of this study was to analyze the structure of the phytoplankton community on seasonal scales and to identify the environmental factors, such as temperature, conductivity, pH, dissolved oxygen, light intensity, transparency, ammonium, nitrate and phosphate controlling the phytoplankton density and composition of phytoplankton communities. The results showed that phytoplankton comprised 43 taxa, mainly Chlorophyta (58%), Bacillariophyta (14%), Cyanobacteria (14%), Dinophyta (7%), Chrysophyta (5%) and Euglenophyta (2%). There was significant difference in phytoplankton abundance but not species richness between two seasons. Multiple regression analysis between chlorophyll *a* contents, phytoplankton density with environmental independent variables indicated that ammonium, nitrate concentrations and water temperature were significantly impact to the abundance of phytoplankton, while almost no independent variables were found to correlate to chlorophyll *a*. CCA analysis phytoplankton and abiotic parameters revealed several species groups with their favorable environmental conditions.

Keywords: Environmental factors, phytoplankton composition, reservoir, seasonal variation.

INTRODUCTION

The knowledge on how species interact within ecosystems is necessary to understand how natural and anthropogenic pressures will affect ecosystem structure and functioning [26]. Phytoplankton is a major producer in any aquatic ecosystem. The species composition and phytoplankton community dynamics are influenced by several factors, including available nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus), physical variables (temperature, conductivity, pH, dissolved oxygen, light intensity, transparency) and biological interactions (competition and grazing) [3, 15, 17, 23]. With a great variation of adaptive strategies, groups of phytoplankton are successful in many freshwater bodies [25]. The study of dynamics of phytoplankton is well-developed in many parts of the world [4, 10, 13, 16, 14]. These studies were crucial to an understanding of the ecosystem dynamics in lakes and reservoirs. In Viet Nam, there were several publications in phytoplankton research, but most have been dealing with taxonomy and species composition

[20, 21, 27], and only few studies were about impacts of environment on phytoplankton. There was completely lack studies on composition of phytoplankton as well as factors that effect structure of phytoplankton community in reservoirs in Da Lat city, Lam Vien highland. These reservoirs are presently considered to be polluted as they receive run off and untreated wastewater from agriculture (Dankia, Xuan Huong, Da Thien, Tuyen Lam reservoirs) and domestic waste (Xuan Huong reservoir) [29]. Tuyen Lam reservoir located 4 kilometers northwest of the Da Lat city, is a medium reservoir dam, constructed since 1983 and being used for drinking and irrigating water. The water level is high during the rainy season and low when the water is used without being refilled during the dry season due to the reservoir for irrigating water. The reservoir suffers from nutrient loading associated with sediment influx which resulted from massive erosion linked to land degradation. However, there was limited information about phytoplankton of the reservoir. Understanding

relationship within the microbial food web of the reservoir, especially impacts of environmental factors on composition of phytoplankton is scientifically important and would contribute valuable data for a scientific based water management in Tuyen Lam reservoir. This present study applied analysis on data sets of abiotic environmental conditions and phytoplankton community structure to understand and/or identify the processes and factors that affect phytoplankton during a one-year period.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area

Tuyen Lam reservoir is located at latitude of $11^{\circ}53'N$ and longitude of $108^{\circ}25'E$ in Da Lat city, Lam Dong province, Vietnam (fig. 1). This region characterized by two climatic seasons, rainy season (April-October), and dry season (November-March). The total area of Tuyen Lam reservoir is about 303.49 hectares. The reservoir has a mean depth of $9.88 \pm 1.28m$. The reservoir was reconstructed in 1983 for irrigating and drinking water.

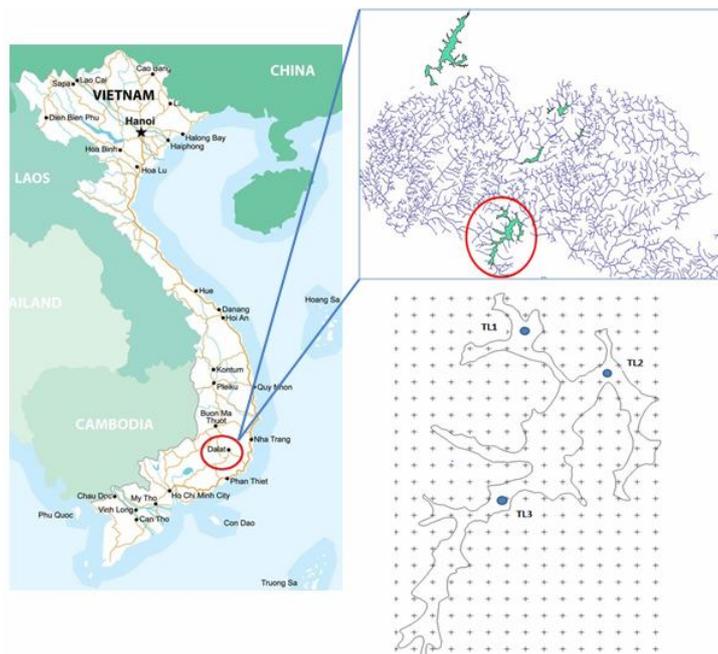


Figure 1. Study area and sampling stations in Tuyen Lam reservoir.

Sample collection and analysis

Sampling was carried out monthly at three stations (fig. 1) from January to December 2014. Although data was collected monthly, the results were represented seasonally as the rainy (April-October) and the dry season (November-March). Values of biotic and abiotic variables were presented as the mean of three stations ($n=3$). At each station, samples were collected from two layers, surface layer (from 0 to 50 cm) and at bottom of the euphotic zone. The euphotic zone was estimated by using a factor of 2.0 to 2.7 times the Secchi disk depth (Cole,

1994) [5]. Water temperature, conductivity, and pH were measured by using a 330i/SET multiprobe (USA). Dissolved oxygen was measured with portable digital potentiometer. Water transparency was estimated by a Secchi disk. Light intensity was measured by light meter (Extech Instruments, USA). Ammonia-nitrogen (NH_4^+-N), nitrate-nitrogen ($NO_3^- -N$) and phosphate (PO_4^{3-}) concentrations were measured followed standard methods [2]. Phytoplankton quantitative samples were collected using Niskin bottle at the two layers. Qualitative phytoplankton samples were

collected using a conical net with 25 µm mesh size. Phytoplankton samples were fixed with a 1% acid Lugol solution [31]. Analysis of chlorophyll *a* was followed US. EPA (10200 H) [2]. The phytoplankton were identified from live and Lugol-fixed samples under an Olympus microscope BX 41. Identification was done following Komárek et al. (2000) [11], Komárek et al. (2005) [12] and John & Robert (2003) [9]. Phytoplankton were quantified using Sedgewick-Rafter chamber and by counting individuals of the most frequent taxon (including filamentous cyanobacteria as *Anabaena spiroides* và *Oscillatoria* sp.) under a microscope at 400× according to Hotzel & Croome (1999) [7].

Data analysis

Relationship between species composition of phytoplankton and environmental variables were analysed using canonical correspondence analysis (CCA). CCA is a direct ordination technique that selects the combination of environmental variables which maximize the dispersion of the scores of phytoplankton species. In this analysis, the matrix with biotic data was constructed with abundant species. The abbreviated names of species were given in the taxonomic table (table 2). Species accounting for more than 1% of the variance in each variable were considered to be selected by this variable. CCA plots represent overlap of species in relation to a given combination of environmental variables in each studied month. All the analyses were accomplished with the CANOCO 4.5 Program for Window. The regression analysis was calculated by using abundance phytoplankton, chlorophyll *a* contents as dependent variable and abiotic factors as independent variables with the help of Statgraphic plus 5.0 for Windows. The mean, standard deviation (SD) were calculated by Microsoft excel and P values were calculated for ANOVA among seasons, depths and stations. Means and standard deviation of all measurements (with three repetitions) and three stations were recorded for each parameter.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Physical and chemical characteristics

Physical, chemical and biological variables of the water of Tuyen Lam reservoir at all sampling sites during the study period are presented in table 1. The average of these variables (at 0-50 cm layer) was described in fig. 2.

Water temperature ranged from 16.27 (July) to 22.67°C (April) (fig. 2A), with an average of 19.11±1.95°C in the rainy and 18.41±1.30°C in the dry seasons. There was no difference in temperature among stations in both of seasons at 0.5 m (ANOVA, p=0.069) as well as at both depths (ANOVA, p=2.94) (table 1). However, pH was higher in the dry than in the rainy seasons at 0.5 m (ANOVA, p=0.049), but similar all year round at the bottom of photic layer (fig. 2B and table 1). pH ranged from neutral (6.96) to slightly alkaline (7.97) values. Dissolved oxygen ranged from 5.16 to 7.73 mg/l. There was a slight increase in dissolved oxygen in the rainy season. DO was higher in the rainy than in the dry season at both layers (ANOVA, p=0.013, and 0.047) but not different from surface and the bottom of photic zone (table 1). During rainy season, water level of the reservoir was rising higher than in the dry season (fig. 2D, table 1).

Total daily irradiation varied between 776 lux in December and 50966 lux in April. The water transparency (Secchi depth) was relatively high all through the seasons, ranging between 0.8 m and 3.5 m. Therefore, the euphotic zone ranged from 1.6 m to 7.0 m. Light intensity was higher in the rainy than in the dry seasons (ANOVA, p=0.00, fig. 2I and table 1). Water transparency in the rainy was higher in the dry seasons. This may be explained by high irradiation recorded during early rainy season (April-May). In Tuyen Lam reservoir, high light intensity during April-May when water temperature high may favor phytoplankton growth. That would explain phytoplankton peak in April (fig. 2J).

Electrical conductivity was generally high and varied between 58.67 and 64.67 µS/cm. The EC values were not different among 3 stations in both seasons (ANOVA, p=0.236, fig. 2F, table 1).

Relatively low nutrient concentrations were

recorded during 2014. Ammonia concentration varied from 0.07 to 0.64 mg/l, higher at surface water in the rainy than in the dry season (ANOVA, $p=0.007$). Nitrate concentrations were higher in the dry than in the rainy season at both layers (ANOVA, $p=0.028$). Average phosphate concentration was 0.46 ± 0.45 mg/l in the rainy and higher (0.55 ± 0.26 mg/l) in the dry seasons. Phosphate values were much varied in the rainy than in the dry season (table 1). Both

nitrate and phosphate concentration were completely depleted in August (fig. 2G). During this month, chlorophyll *a* content was highest, thus, phytoplankton may be involved in using all nutrients for that massive biomass.

All physical and chemical parameters were not different between surface and bottom of the photic zone layers may imply that the photic zone of Tuyen Lam reservoir was quite well mixed through out the year.

Table 1. Physical, chemical and biological parameters between the rainy and the dry seasons in Tuyen Lam reservoir

Physical, chemical and biological parameters	Rainy season (Apr. – Oct.)			Dry season (Nov.- Mar.)			Significant difference (<i>p</i>)	
	Min	Max	Mean \pm SD	Min	Max	Mean \pm SD	Seasons	Layers
Water depth (m)	8	13	9.88 \pm 1.28	7.8	9.5	8.65 \pm 0.63	0.004	-
Transparency depth (m)	1.1	3.5	1.75 \pm 0.6	0.8	2.4	1.55 \pm 0.34	0.015	-
Light intensity (lux)	1343	50966	14180 \pm 17647	776	2286	1636 \pm 531	0.000	-
Water temperature (°C)								
10 cm layer	16.27	22.67	19.11 \pm 1.95	16.43	20.53	18.41 \pm 1.30	0.060	2.94
Bottom of photic layer	16.0	21.6	18.96 \pm 1.28	16.4	20.4	18.26 \pm 1.19	0.067	
pH of water								
(0-0.5m) layer	7.1	7.87	7.30 \pm 0.33	6.96	7.97	7.49 \pm 0.3	0.049	0.46
Bottom of photic layer	6.12	8.25	7.18 \pm 0.61	6.46	8.1	7.32 \pm 0.49	0.189	
Dissolved Oxygen(mg/l)								
(0-0.5m) layer	5.16	7.73	6.55 \pm 0.7	5.55	7.1	6.32 \pm 0.39	0.013	0.39
Bottom of photic layer	5.06	7.17	6.5 \pm 0.66	5.61	7.2	6.30 \pm 0.43	0.047	
Electrical Conductivity (μ S/cm)								
(0-0.5m) layer	58.67	64.67	62.7 \pm 1.72	59	64.33	61.51 \pm 1.42	0.236	0.1
Bottom of photic layer	59.33	64.33	62.65 \pm 1.15	59	63.67	61.38 \pm 1.23	0.026	
NO ₃ -N (mg/l)								
(0-0.5m) layer	0.06	1.85	1.35 \pm 0.56	1.19	2.22	1.64 \pm 0.34	0.019	0.43
Bottom of photic layer	*	2.08	1.36 \pm 0.63	0.91	2.06	1.54 \pm 0.34	0.003	
NH ₄ -N (mg/l)								
(0-0.5m) layer	0.1	0.64	0.3 \pm 0.19	0.067	0.46	0.22 \pm 0.1	0.007	0.37
Bottom of photic layer	0.07	0.89	0.29 \pm 0.22	0.17	0.46	0.25 \pm 0.07	5.48	
PO ₄ ³⁻ -P (mg/l)								
(0-0.5m) layer	*	1.23	0.46 \pm 0.45	0.19	0.92	0.55 \pm 0.26	0.015	0.36
Bottom of photic layer	*	1.15	0.51 \pm 0.41	0.13	1.14	0.56 \pm 0.32	0.152	
Chlorophyll <i>a</i> (μ g/l)								
(0-0.5m) layer	11.21	52.33	23.71 \pm 11.21	11.21	37.88	21.21 \pm 7.43	0.102	0.00
Bottom of photic layer	3.73	22.43	8.81 \pm 5.26	3.74	16.02	7.82 \pm 3.59	0.045	
Abundance of phytoplankton (cells or individuals/l)								
(0-0.5m) layer	0.162	11.47	2.1 \pm 2.7	0.04	2.72	0.90 \pm 0.89	0.000	1.61
Bottom of photic layer	0.16	3.83	1.00 \pm 0.91	0.04	0.75	0.31 \pm 0.23	0.002	
Species richness								
(0-0.5m) layer	5	18	9.9 \pm 2.8	4	13	9.1 \pm 2.6	0.348	-

(*): value below detection limit.

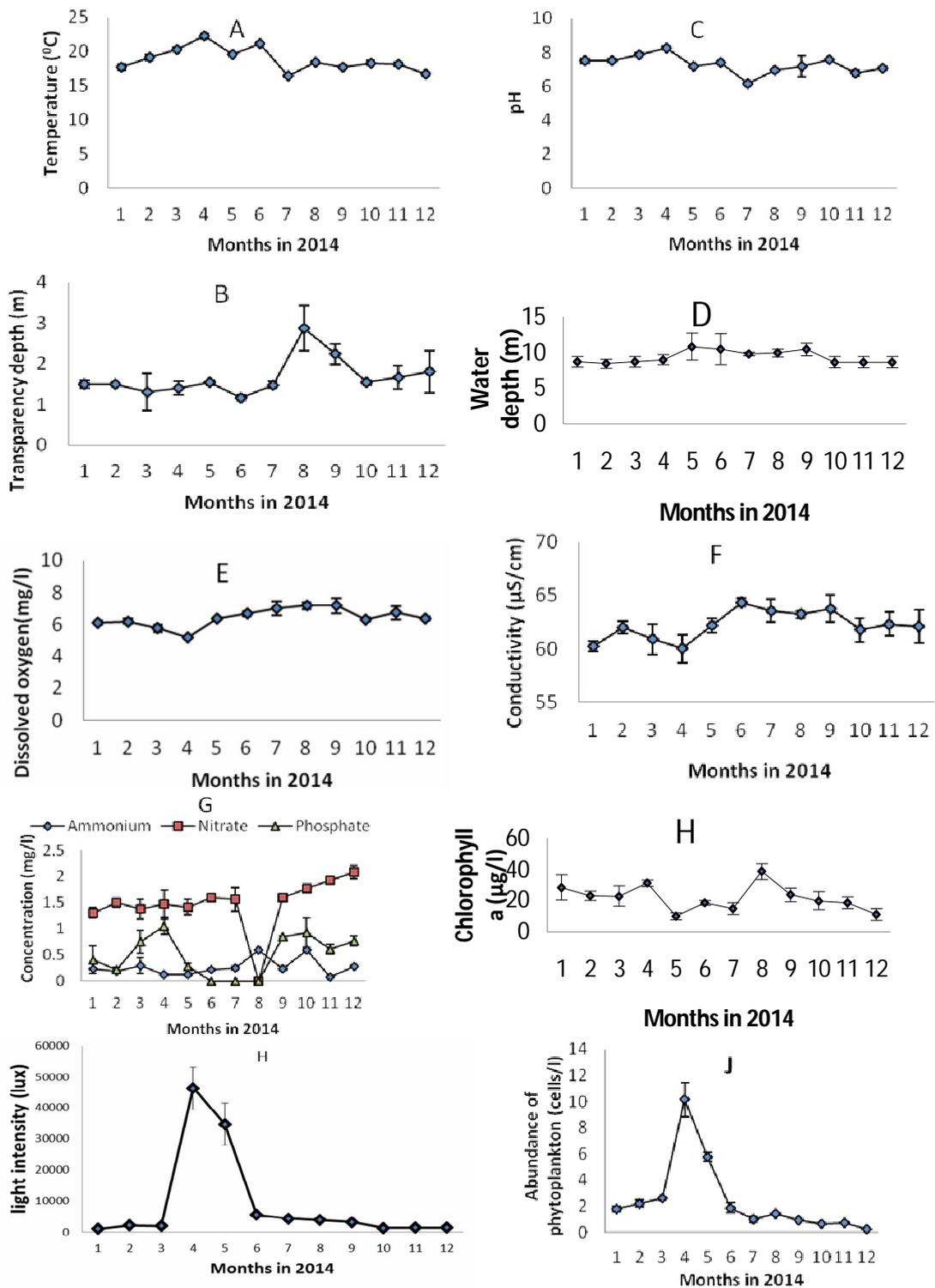


Figure 2. Average of water temperature (A), Transparency depth (B), pH (C), water depth (D), Dissolved oxygen (E), Conductivity (F), Concentrations of ammonium, nitrate and phosphate (G), Chlorophyll a content (H), Light intensity (I), and abundance of phytoplankton (J) in Tuyen Lam reservoir at 0.5 m.

follows:

$$\log(TAP) = -3.9071 - 0.36882 \cdot \log(NH_4^+) - 3.14209 \cdot \log(NO_3^-) + 0.273314 \cdot \text{water temperature}$$

During 2014, chlorophyll *a* contents were $21.21 \pm 7.43 \mu\text{g/l}$ in the dry and $23.71 \pm 11.21 \mu\text{g/l}$ in the rainy seasons (fig. 2H). Chlorophyll *a* content was not significantly different between seasons at 0.5 m (ANOVA, $p=0.102$) but higher at surface than in the bottom of photic zone layers (ANOVA, $p=0.045$). Results of a multiple linear model for the relationship between chlorophyll *a* (Chla) and abiotic parameters revealed only one fitting independent factor, pH, and the equation of the

fitted model was as follows:

$$\text{Log}(chla) = 0.84033 + 0.29442 \cdot \text{pH}$$

The result of the CCA for relationships between species composition of phytoplankton and environmental variables are summarized in table 3 and fig. 4. The axis 1 of CCA had an eigenvalue of 0.347 and explained 28.2% of the total variance in phytoplankton species. The second axis had an eigenvalue of 0.173 and explained 42.3% of the total variance. The eigenvalues of axes 1 and 2 explained 42.3% of the variance of the species data. Environmental variables explained 46% of the explanation was summarized by the first two axes.

Table 3. Statistical summary for phytoplankton species and abiotic variables on the first two CCA axes for the Tuyen Lam reservoir

	Axis 1	Axis 2
1. Eigenvalues	0.347	0.173
2. Species-environment correlations	0.994	0.999
3. Cumulative percentage variance of species data	28.2	42.3
4. Cumulative percentage variance of species-environment relation	30.7	46.0

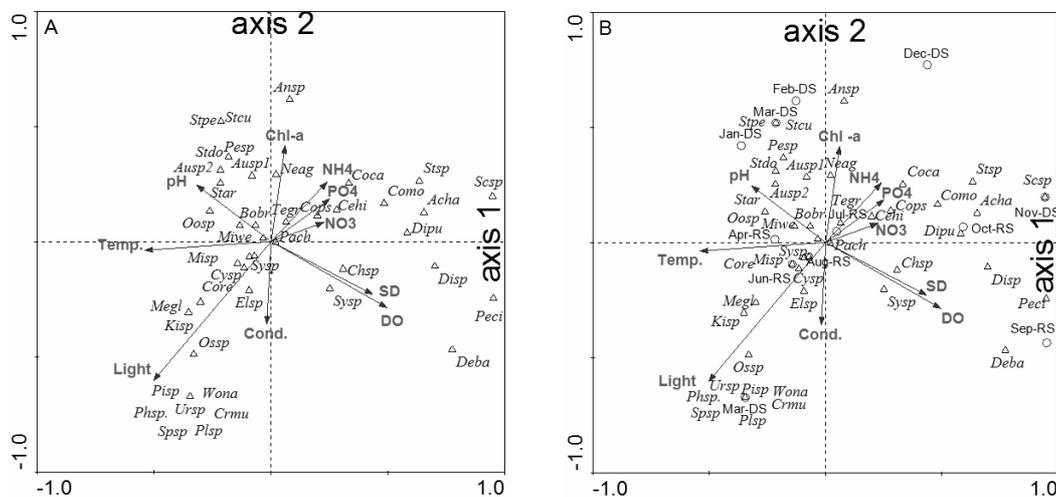


Figure 4. The ordination diagrams of CCA. CCA biplot illustrating the presence of the species (abbreviated names as in table 2) and environmental variables in Tuyen Lam reservoir in 2014. Species are expressed as open triangles. Months are expressed as open circles. Environmental factor are shown as arrows with their origin at average values, extending towards higher values. pH=concentration of proton, Temp=water temperature; SD=Secchi Depth; Light=Light intensity; NH4=ammonia concentration; DO=Dissolved Oxygen; NO3=nitrate concentration, PO4=phosphate concentration; Chl-a=chlorophyll *a* content; DS=Dry season and RS=Rainy season. Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec=January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December.

There was no statistically significant differences in abundance of phytoplankton between seasons (ANOVA; $p=1.198$ (table 1). Chlorophyta was represented in the studied reservoir by a large number of species, but in low cell numbers (fig. 3A, 3B). Dinophyte genera, such as *Peridinium* and *Ceratium* represented relatively high abundance in both seasons. These genera were usually abundance in nutrient rich habitats or mesotrophic lakes [33]. *Ceratium* is known as a genus growth rapidly at low nutrient concentrations [4]. In Tuyen Lam, there were two Cyanobacteria species, *Microcystis wesenbergii* and *Microsystis* sp., dominant throughout the year. Cyanobacteria are frequently found in eutrophic waters [6]. Chrysophyta were found from May to December (table 2) and became more abundance in September-December (fig. 3B). There was no differences in species richness of phytoplankton between two seasons (ANOVA, $p=0.348$) (table 1).

In the ordination diagrams of CCA (fig. 4), several species groups were formed with associated environmental parameters and sampling months. A groups including *Woronichinia naegeliana*, *Crucigenia mucronada*, *Pleurotaenium* sp., *Sphaerocystis* sp., *Phacus* sp., *Pinnularia* sp., and *Urosolenia* sp. was placed together near light intensity vector. These species were found only in March (fig. 4B), at the end of the dry season, when light intensity was high. These species are known as photophilic species [10]. *Chlamydomonas* sp. and *Synedra* sp. were found in the positive part of the second axis and were related to high dissolved oxygen and low Secchi depth (fig. 4). These species may tolerance to higher mixed and turbid water. Other groups as *Coelastrum cambrium*, *Cosmarium pseudoconnatum*, *Pandorina charkowiensis* and *Ceratium hirundinella* were found in the positive part of the second axis and related to low nutrient concentrations in July. Three Cyanobacteria species, *Microcystis* sp., *Microcystis wesenbergii*, and *Oscillatoria* sp., were grouped together near water temperature and pH vectors. These species were related to high water temperature and low pH values in

the beginning of the rainy season (April). The CCA showed no clear seasonal pattern but rather phytoplankton groups in their favorable environmental conditions. The sampling units related to the rainy and the dry seasons were placed in both axes 1 and 2 (fig 4B). The first two axes of CCA explained 70.5% (28.2 % for axis 1 and 42.3% for axis 2) of total variance in phytoplankton species. So, there was 29.5% of unexplained variation at Tuyen Lam reservoir, but the unexplained variation was probably to other factors.

CONCLUSION

In summary, this study presented monthly and seasonally variation in water temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, light intensity, transparency, dissolved nutrient concentration, chlorophyll a content, and phytoplankton composition and abundance during 2014 in Tuyen Lam reservoir. Relationship between phytoplankton and abiotic parameters were analyzed by various statistical attempts. The controlling roles of some environmental parameters was presented by canonical correspondence analysis (as relationship of different algal groups to their particulate environmental conditions) and the multiple linear regression modeling (as total abundance of phytoplankton to dissolved nitrogenous and temperature). Dynamics of phytoplankton abundance in Tuyen Lam reservoir was controlled by two main phyla, Cyanobacteria and Chrysophyta. There was difference in the species composition and abundance of phytoplankton in during the study period. However, no different in species richness of phytoplankton was found between the two seasons.

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BIẾN ĐỘNG CẤU TRÚC THỰC VẬT PHÙ DU TRONG HỒ TUYỀN LÂM, ĐÀ LẠT, VIỆT NAM

Trần Thị Tình¹, Đoàn Như Hải², Lê Bá Dũng¹

¹Trường Đại học Đà Lạt

²Viện Hải Dương học Nha Trang, Viện Hàn lâm KH & CN Việt Nam

TÓM TẮT

Biến động cấu trúc thực vật phù du trong hồ Tuyền Lâm thuộc thành phố Đà Lạt, Việt Nam đã được phân tích qua mùa mưa và mùa khô, từ tháng 1 đến tháng 12 năm 2014. Mẫu được thu hàng tháng tại 3 vị trí của hồ. Mục đích của nghiên cứu nhằm phân tích cấu trúc quần xã thực vật phù du theo mùa; xác định ảnh hưởng của yếu tố môi trường (nhiệt độ, độ dẫn điện, pH, oxy hòa tan, cường độ ánh sáng, độ truyền quang, nồng độ amoni, nitrat và phosphate) đến thành phần loài và mật độ thực vật phù du. Kết quả đã xác định được 43 taxon, trong đó ngành tảo lục có số lượng taxon nhiều nhất (chiếm tới 58%), kế tiếp là ngành tảo silic (14%), vi khuẩn lam (14%), tảo giáp (7%), tảo vàng ánh (5%) và tảo mắt (2%). Nghiên cứu cũng đã chỉ ra được sự khác nhau đáng kể về mật độ thực vật phù du giữa mùa khô và mùa mưa. Tuy nhiên, không có sự khác nhau đáng kể về thành phần loài giữa hai mùa. Phân tích hồi quy đa biến giữa hàm lượng diệp lục tố a, mật độ thực vật phù du với các yếu tố môi trường cho thấy nồng độ amoni, nitrat và nhiệt độ nước có tương quan chặt với mật độ thực vật phù du, trong khi đó hầu như không có biến môi trường nào có quan hệ với hàm lượng diệp lục tố a. Các phân tích CCA giữa thực vật phù du và biến môi trường đã thể hiện các nhóm loài cùng với những đặc trưng điều kiện môi trường của chúng.

Từ khóa: Biến động theo mùa, hồ chứa, thực vật phù du, yếu tố môi trường.

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