

Studies on the Ecology of Sea Grasses in Uppanar Estuary, South East Coast of India

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Abstract : Seasonal variations of sea grasses and physico-chemical parameters were studied from April 2011 to March 2012. Samples were collected in four different seasons, namely post monsoon (January-March), summer (April-June) premonsoon (July-September) and monsoon (October-December) from the Uppanar estuary. Three species of sea grass biomass were measured during the study period: *Halophila ovalis* (215.3 g/m² - 38.5 g/m²), *Halophila beccarii* (75.2 g/m² -30.1 g/m²) and *Halodule pinifolia* (65.4 g/m² - 26.5 g/m²), respectively. Canonical Correspondence Analysis (CCA) showed that NO₂, NO₃ PO₄, and SiO₄ influenced *Halophila ovalis* biomass distribution, whereas for *Halophila beccarii* and *Halodule pinifolia*, atmospheric temperature, water temperature, salinity, pH and DO proved important.

Keywords : sea grass, species biomass, Uppanar estuary, water quality

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