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## COMPARATIVE STUDY OF PHYTOPLANKTON IN THE NATURE RESERVE OF KOPAČKI RIT

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In 1990, qualitative composition of phytoplankton was investigated in Lake Sakadaš and the Fishpond Belje A2. On the basis of these results the species similarity of their phytoplankton communities was calculated. Specific ecological conditions of each investigated locality resulted in a different phytoplankton development during the vegetation period. As a result, the stated similarity indexes changed during the vegetation period, too.

### Introduction

Lake Sakadaš is the deepest lake in the Nature Reserve of Kopački Rit (Barannya, Croatia, Fig. 1) and owing to its specific ecological conditions, it is a habitat for a large fishstock living in its waters. The lake is connected with the Danube through periodical exchanges of water. In the West, Lake Sakadaš is separated by a road embankment (about 200 m wide) from the artificially stocked Fishpond Belje A2 (Fig. 1) where the water is supplied from the Danube river.

A number of papers dealing with the phytoplankton of Lake Sakadaš have been published (Gucunski 1973, 1974, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1986; Gucunski and Horvatić 1990; Horvatić 1990) so far, but only one paper (Mihaljević and Gucunski 1991) deals with the phytoplankton of the Fishpond Belje A2.

Lake Sakadaš and the Fishpond Belje A2 belong to the same hydrogeographic, climatic and floristical area. The aim of this paper was to establish the species similarity of their phytoplankton communities.

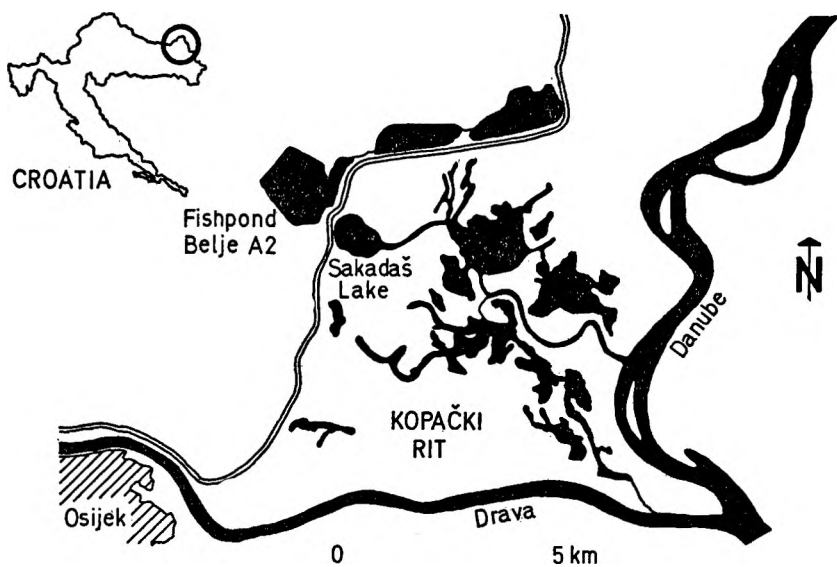


Fig. 1. Geographic location of the Nature Reserve of Kopački Rit

### Methods

Samples for the phytoplankton qualitative analyses were taken every two weeks, from March till November 1990. We filtered 10 liters of water using the phytoplankton net according to Burchardt (77 threads/cm, diameter 15 cm). Solution of 4% formalin was used for the preservation of the samples. Phytoplankton taxa were determined according to: Hindák et al. (1975), Hindák (1977—1990), Hindák et al. (1978), Huber-Pestalozzi (1961—1983), Hustedt (1976).

The similarity index of two phytoplankton samples from different stations was evaluated from the method developed by Sørensen (1948). The following expression was used

$$\% S = 2C / A + B \times 100$$

where A — the number of species in A sample

B — the number of species in B sample

C — the number of species in both samples.

Tab. 1. THE LIST OF PHYTOPLANKTON TAXA DETERMINED IN LAKE SAKADAŠ AND IN THE FISHPOND BELJE A2 DURING 1990

	1990																
	13.03. S A2	29.03. S A2	12.04. S A2	26.04. S A2	10.05. S A2	29.05. S A2	15.06. S A2	28.06. S A2	12.07. S A2	27.07. S A2	09.08. S A2	23.08. S A2	06.09. S A2	20.09. S A2	04.10. S A2	22.10. S A2	02.11. S A2
<b>CYANOPHYTA</b>																	
<i>Anabaena circinalis</i> RABENH. ex BORN. et FLAH	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	1	3	.	.	1	1	.	1	.	1
<i>Anabaena flos-aquae</i> BRĚB. ex BORN. et FLAH	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	5	3	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Anabaena solitaria</i> KLEB.	.	1	1	3	.	1	1	3	5	5	1	3	1	1	.	.	.
<i>Anabaena spiroides</i> KLEB.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	.	.	.	.
<i>Anabaenopsis</i> sp.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Aphicizomenon flos-aquae</i> RALF ex BORN. et FLAH	3	1	1	1	1	1	5	3	3	3	1	5	3	5	3	5	3
<i>Chroococcus minutus</i> (KÜTZ.) NÄG.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Coelosphaerium kuetzingianum</i> NÄG.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Gomphosphaeria aponinc</i> KÜTZ.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Gomphosphaeria lacustris</i> CHOD.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Gomphosphaeria naegeliana</i> (UNG.) LEMM.	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Gomphosphaeria pusilla</i> (VAN-GOOR) KOM.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	1	1	3
<i>Merismopedia elegans</i> A. BRAUN in KÜTZ.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	3	.	.	.	1	1
<i>Merismopedia glauca</i> (EHRENB.) KÜTZ.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	1	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	.
<i>Merismopedia punctata</i> MEYEN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Merismopedia tenuissima</i> LEMM.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	3	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	1
<i>Microcystis aeruginosa</i> (KÜTZ.) KÜTZ.	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Oscillatoria agardhii</i> GOM.	1	1	1	3	.	.	.	1	1	5	5	3	1	3	1	3	3
<i>Oscillatoria angusta</i> KOPPE.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Oscillatoria redekei</i> VAN-GOOR	.	.	5	1	5	5	3	3	3	1	.	.	.	1	.	1	.
<i>Oscillatoria tenuis</i> AG. ex GOM.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Pseudanabaena galeata</i> BOCHER	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Pseudanabaena limnetica</i> (LEMM.) KOM.	1	1	.	.	1	5	3	1	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	3	1
<i>Spirulina</i> sp.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Synechococcus elongatus</i> NÄG.	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.
<i>Synechococcus linearis</i> (SCHMIDLE et LAUT.) KOM.	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<b>EUGLENOPHYTA</b>																	
<i>Euglena acus</i> EHRENB.	1	.	1	.	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	5	3	3	1	1
<i>Euglena ehrenbergii</i> KLEBS	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
<i>Euglena limnophila</i> LEMM.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	3	1	.
<i>Euglena oxyuris</i> SCHMARDA	.	1	1	1	.	1	1	.	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Euglena polymorpha</i> DANG.	1	1	1	1	.	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Euglena proxima</i> DANG.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	3	1
<i>Euglena sanguinea</i> EHRENB.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
<i>Euglena spirogyra</i> EHRENB.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
<i>Euglena variabilis</i> KLEBS	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	3	1	1	1	.	.	.	3	3
<i>Euglena</i> sp.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Heteronema acus</i> (EHRENB.) STEIN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	1	1
<i>Lepocinclis elongata</i> (SWIR.) CONR.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1
<i>Lepocinclis fusiformis</i> (CARTER) LEMM.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	3	1	1	.	.	.
<i>Lepocinclis ovum</i> (EHRENB.) LEMM.	.	.	1	1	1	.	1	.	1	1	1	1	1	1	.	1	1
<i>Monomorphina nordstedtii</i> (LEMM.) POPOVA.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
<i>Phacus aenigmaticus</i> DREZ.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Phacus caudatus</i> HÜBN.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	3	.	1	1
<i>Phacus caudatus</i> HÜBN. var. <i>undulatus</i>	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Phacus formosus</i> POCHM.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
<i>Phacus helicoides</i> (LEMM.) SKV.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	.
<i>Phacus longicauda</i> (EHRENB.) DUJARD.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	1	1	1	1
<i>Phacus pleuronectes</i> (O. F. MÜLL.) DUJ.	1	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	1	1	1	.	.	.	1	1	1
<i>Phacus pyrum</i> EHRENB.	.	.	.	.	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	.	1	1	.	1
<i>Phacus suecicus</i> LEMM.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Phacus textus</i> POCHM.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Trachelomonas hispida</i> (PERTY.) STIEN em. DEFL.	.	.	1	3	1	3	.	1	1	3	.	1	1	.	1	1	1
<i>Trachelomonas intermedia</i> DANG.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Trachelomonas lefevreii</i> DEFL.	3	1	3	1	3	3	1	1	1	1	.	1	1	.	.	.	.
<i>Trachelomonas oblonga</i> LEMM.	1	.	1	1	1	.	.	1	1	.	1	1	1	.	1	1	1
<i>Trachelomonas planctonica</i> SVIR.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Trachelomonas volvocina</i> EHRENB.	1	1	1	3	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	3
<b>PYRROPHYTA</b>																	
<i>Ceratium hirundinella</i> (O.P.M.) SCHRANK	.	.	.	.	.	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	.	1	.	1	1
<i>Cryptomonas erosa</i> EHRENB.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Cryptomonas</i> sp.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Glenodinium gymnodinium</i> PENARD.	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Peridinium</i> sp.	1	.	1	.	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	5	1
<i>Peridinium cinctum</i> (O.F.MÜLLER) EHRENB.	1	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Peridinium inconspicuum</i> LEMM.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
<i>Peridinium pusillum</i> (PENARD) LEMM.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
<i>Gymnodinium</i> sp.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.







## Results and Discussion

During the period of investigation, a total of 184 phytoplankton taxa were determined in Lake Sakadaš (Tab. 1). The identified taxa belonged to the following groups: *Cyanophyta* — 17 taxa; *Euglenophyta* — 21 taxa; *Pyrrophyta* — 6 taxa; *Chrysophyta* — 33 taxa; *Chlorophyta* 106 taxa and *Mycophyta* — 1 taxon. In the same period, as many as 204 phytoplankton taxa were determined in the Fishpond Belje A2 (Tab. 1). They were from the groups: *Cyanophyta* — 23 taxa; *Euglenophyta* — 31 taxa; *Pyrrophyta* — 8 taxa; *Chrysophyta* — 38 taxa; *Chlorophyta* — 103 taxa and *Mycophyta* — 1 taxon. A comparison of these two phytoplankton assemblages showed the presence of 134 common phytoplankton taxa and a similarity index of 77.5%.

However, due to the specific conditions in each locality, the similarity indexes varied during the investigation period. In Lake Sakadaš, the strongest influence on the phytoplankton was exercised by a variable water regime resulting from natural hydrological communication between the Danube and the Nature Reserve of Kopački Rit. In the Fishpond Belje A2, it was a strong anthropogenic factor that influenced the phytoplankton development. According to Komárková et al. (1986), Fott et al. (1980) it is also necessary to take into account the influence of a large fishstock upon the development of phytoplankton communities, as was the case of Fishpond Belje A2.

As for the variation in the similarity indexes, it is evident that the lowest value (22.2%, Fig. 3) was established at the end of the winter 1990. At that time, low water temperature (9.0°C) in deep Lake Sakadaš (5.90 m) allowed the development of only 8 species (Fig. 2) whereas in the shallower (1.20 m) and warmer (12.5°C) waters of the Fishpond Belje A2 the phytoplankton community had a higher number of taxa (38, Fig. 2). Later, during the spring, favorable ecological conditions (water temperature 11.5—23.5°C, increase of radiation) in both localities contributed to the development of more abundant and stable phytoplankton communities, so that the similarity index increased (25.0—54.5%, Fig. 3). But this continuous increase was interrupted at the end of May 1990, when the depression of phytoplankton taxa (»clear water phase«) in the Fishpond Belje A2 caused a decrease of the similarity index to only 34.7% (Fig. 3).

The greatest similarity indexes (55.3—59.7%, Fig. 3) were established between very abundant early summer and midsummer phytoplankton communities *Cyanophyta-Chlorophyta* which developed in both investigated localities (Tab. 1). However, at the end of August 1990 the similarity index of only 38.7% (Fig. 3) reflected a phytoplankton depression in Lake Sakadaš. Great oxygen deficit (1.3 mg/l) which appeared in the lake waters at that time proved decomposition of rich summer phytoplankton community. Such an autumn phytoplankton depression is characteristic of many eutrophic waters (Fott 1975, Sommer 1989, Reynolds 1984). With the decrease of phytoplankton taxa in Lake Sakadaš, the similarity index decreased too (38.7—27.4%, Fig. 3). At the beginning of August 1990 the number (37) of phytoplankton taxa in Lake Sakadaš increased (Fig. 2), and so did the similarity index (42.0%, Fig. 3).

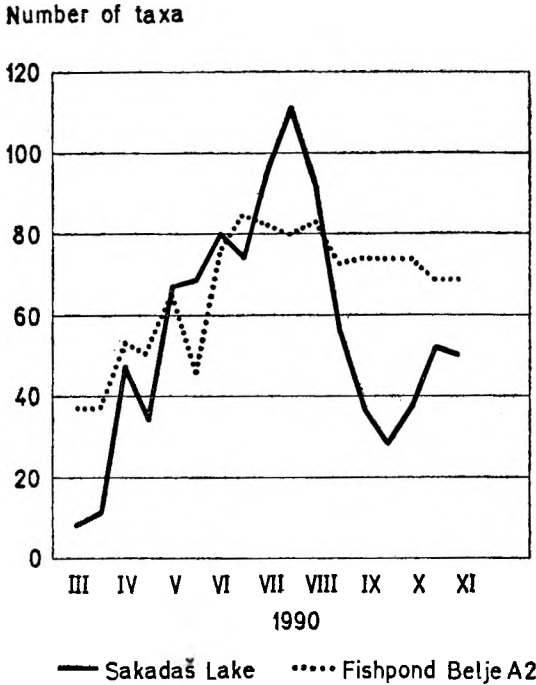


Fig. 2. The number of determined phytoplankton taxa in Lake Sakadaš and in the Fishpond Belje A2

Tab. 1 shows the differences in particular evaluation of the quantitative abundance of phytoplankton taxa established in the localities investigated. It is evident that in the Fishpond Belje A2 the following taxa had the optimal development: *Merismopedia elegans*, *Synechococcus linearis*, *Nitzschia acicularis*, *Ankistrodesmus gracilis*, *Ankistrodesmus longissimus* var. *acicularis*, *Coelastrum astroideum*, *C. microporum*, *Dictyosphaerium tetrachotomum*, *Golenkinia radiata*, *Hyaloraphidium contortum* var. *tenuissimum*, *Pediastrum duplex*, *Phacotus lenticularis*, *Schroederia setigera*, *Staurastrum paradoxum*, *Tetraëdron incus*, *T. minimum*, *T. muticum*, *T. triangulare*, *Tetrastrum punctatum* and *T. staurogeniaeforme*. Contrary to this, in Lake Sakadaš many of these taxa were not spotted or they were present only in few specimens. The following taxa had a successful development: *Oscillatoria redekei*, *Trachelomonas hispida*, *Ceratium hirundinella*, *Melosira granulata* var. *angustissima*, *Stephanodiscus hantzschii* and *Pandorina morum*.



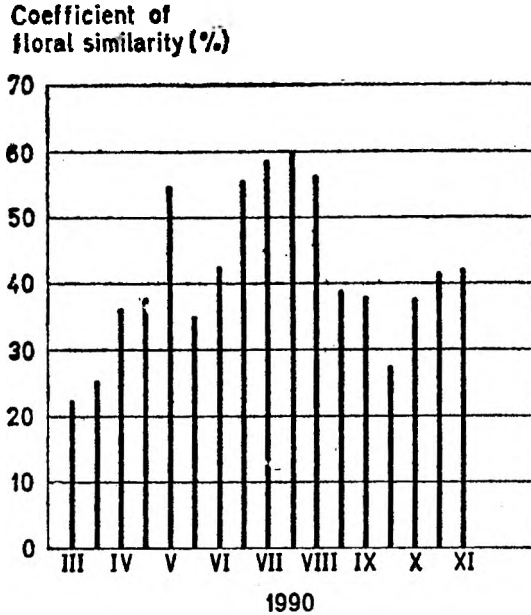


Fig. 3. Similarity indexes of phytoplankton from Lake Sakadaš and the Fishpond Belje A2

### Conclusion

From March till November 1990 a total number of 185 phytoplankton taxa was determined in Lake Sakadaš, and in the same period in the Fishpond Belje A2 a total of 204 phytoplankton taxa was noticed. The similarity index of these two phytoplankton communities was 77.5%.

During the vegetation period the similarity of the lake and the fishpond phytoplankton communities changed. It reached the highest value in the middle of the summer (59.7%) during the maximal phytoplankton development, while a very low similarity was established at the end of the winter, during the spring phytoplankton depression in the Fishpond Belje A2, and during the autumn phytoplankton depression in Lake Sakadaš.

One of the results of this investigation is the list of phytoplankton species found in Kopački Rit just before the 1991 occupation and war, and later, in peace, the list can be used for evaluation of ecological balance of the waters in Barannya.

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## SAŽETAK

KOMPARATIVNA ISTRAŽIVANJA FITOPLANKTONA U PRIRODNOM REZERVATU  
KOPAČKI RIT

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Tijekom 1990. godine u Sakadaškom je jezeru utvrđeno ukupno 185 fitoplanktonskih svojta, a istodobno u Beljskom ribnjaku A2 ukupno 204 fitoplanktonske svojte. Koeficijent florne sličnosti između ukupnog sastava fitoplanktona iznosio je 77,5%.

Specifični ekološki uvjeti — promjenjivi vodni režim u Sakadaškom jezeru i snažni antropogeni utjecaj u Beljskom ribnjaku A2 — utjecali su na različit razvoj fitoplanktonskih zajednica što se odrazilo na variranje (22,2—59,7%) koeficijenata florne sličnosti tijekom istraživanja.

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