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# Relationships between the physicochemical parameters and zooplankton in Eğirdir Lake (Turkey)

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## Abstract

The zooplankton community structure in Eğirdir Lake (Isparta-Turkey) was studied monthly throughout an annual cycle (January 2010-December 2010). The zooplankton community was represented by three main groups: Rotifera, Cladocera and Copepoda, respectively comprised 89.62%, 7.78% and 2.60% of the total zooplankton abundance. Eğirdir Lake was dominated by the rotifera *Polyarthra dolichoptera* in September and October, that succeeded by cladocera *Bosmina longirostris* species during December. Canonical correspondance analysis (CCA) was used to relate species distribution to environmental factors. The variation in the species data was significantly (p < 0.05) related to a set of environmental variables (conductivity, carbonate, pH, ammonium, organic substances, dissolved oxygen, saturation of dissolved oxygen, chloride and temperature). According to the CCA result, variables were able to explain 81.9% of the total variation suggesting a significant result. The rotifer, *Asplanchna priodonta*, and the crustaceans, *B. longirostris* and *Nauplius larvae* seemed to be affected by environmental gradients.

Keywords: Physicochemical parameters, Zooplankton, Eğirdir Lake, Isparta, Turkey

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## Introduction

Zooplankton is a considerable nutrition resource for waterfowl and fish (Altındağ et al., 2009). The species distribution and abundance of zooplankton in any water body depend upon the physicochemical parameters of water (Patra et al.. 2011). Zooplanktons occupy an intermediate position in the food web. Also, they play an important role as indicators of trophic condition in both cold temperate and trophical waters (Ahmad et al., 2011). Eğirdir Lake is important for different sectors such as, irrigation, tourism and drinking water.

There are some researches which show relations between zooplankton and environmental parameters in various water systems (Makarewicz et al., 1998; Tackx et al., 2004; El-Bassat 2007; Arimoro and Taylor, and Oganah, 2010; Ahmad et al., 2011; Sharma, 2011) but in Turkey inland water systems (Altındağ et al., 2009; Deveci et al., 2011) have rarely been studied in this respect. In addition, some researches in Eğirdir Lake as the second drinking and freshwater source are available on taxonomy of (Mann. zooplankton 1940: Kiefer. 1952, 1955; Numann, 1958; Fiers, 1978; Gündüz, 1984; Dumont and De Ridder, 1987; Gündüz, 1987; Rahe and Pelister, 1987; Demirhindi, 1991; Emir, 1991; Gündüz, 1997; Kazancı et al., 1999; Kaya and Altındağ, 2007a,b; Aksoylar and Ertan, 2002; Didinen and Boyacı, 2007; Apaydın Yağcı et al., 2014). However, relations between

and zooplankton species physicochemical parameters have not been studied so far in this lake. Therefore, a detailed study on the monthly distributions of zooplankton species and their relations with physiochemical parameters of Eğirdir Lake was carried out during the study period. The objectives of this study were i) to study the monthly distributions of zooplankton abundance of Eğirdir Lake, and ii) to find out the relationship between physicochemical parameters and zooplankton abundance in Eğirdir Lake.

## Materials and methods

## Study site

Eğirdir Lake, which is a tectonic lake, is located at about 918 m from sea level with a total surface area of 47.250 ha (Yarar and Magnin, 1997). The maximum depth of the lake is 13 m with approximately 48 km maximum length and 16 km maximum width (Kosswig and Geldiay, 1952; Numann, 1958; Çubuk *et al.*, 2006).

## Sampling and sample processing

Sampling was carried out monthly from January to December 2010 at 4 stations (Fig. 1). Vertical water samples were collected monthly from four sites. Station 1 is in the northern area which is called Hoyran. Station 2 is in the southwest of the lake, near Barla Town. Station 3 is in the southeast of the lake, near Gelendost. Station 4 is in the southern most area of the lake, near the Köprü site. At each station the following environmental variables were measured: pH and temperature using a YSI 63; dissolved oxygen concentration, saturation of dissolved oxygen and conductivity using a YSI 55. Water samples were taken for determination of transparency (Secchi disk), chlorophyll-a (chl-a), turbidity, chloride. organic substances. bicarbonate, carbonate, total hardness, calcium, magnesium, nitrate, nitrite, ammonium, sulphate, silica, phosphate and acid power (SBV) (Egemen and Sunlu, 1996; Wetzel and Likens, 2000). At each station, zooplankton samples were collected with a Hydro-Bios plankton net vertically within the water column filtered through a 55 µm net and fixed in a 4 % formaldehyde solution. Samples were analyzed by binocular for zooplankton species composition and abundance.

#### Community analysis

The relationship between species distribution and environmental factors was investigated by means of the Canonical Correspondence Analysis (CCA) (Özkan, 2009). A Monte Carlo test for the significance of the correlations between the environmental factors and the species distribution was applied. Zooplankton species were identified following the work of Dussart (1967, 1969); Koste (1978); Negrea (1983); Korovchinsky (1992); Nogrady and Segers (2002). А zooplankton species checklist was formed according to Ustaoğlu (2004) and Ustaoğlu et al. (2012). Ouantitative

enumeriation (Ind.L<sup>-1</sup>) of zooplankton and their constituent groups was implemented with a Sedgewick Rafter counting cell (Edmondson, 1959).

### Results

#### Ecological conditions

Eğirdir Lake is moderately alkaline, with pH ranging between  $8.63\pm0.53$ and  $8.98\pm0.30$ . Secchi disk readings varied from a minimum of  $0.93\pm0.53$  at site III to a maximum of  $1.95\pm0.95$  at site I, while the mean Secchi depth at all sites and months was  $1.54\pm0.53$  m (Table 1). Rotifers, Cladocers and Copepods exhibited monthly dynamics (Table 2) as illustrated in Fig. 2. Total mean zooplankton abundance averaged over all stations varied from 42 Ind.L<sup>-1</sup> in March, to 3092 Ind.L<sup>-1</sup> in October (Fig. 2).

Zooplankton was most abundant at site IV, with a maximum population density of  $1.889 \text{ Ind.L}^{-1}$  recorded in October. The lowest zooplankton abundance of 2 Ind.L<sup>-1</sup> was recorded at site I in March (Fig. 3).

Rotifers of Eğirdir Lake were represented by 21 species (Table 2), with *P. dolichoptera* (2332 Ind.L<sup>-1</sup>-October), *K. cochlearis* (199 Ind.L<sup>-1</sup>-November), *B. angularis* (344 Ind.L<sup>-1</sup>-October) being dominant. Similarly, *P. dolichoptera* dominated the rotifer population at all sites during October (Fig. 4).

The highest population density of *B*. longirostris was 245  $\text{Ind.L}^{-1}$  during December. *D. cucullata* (maximum of 28  $\text{Ind.L}^{-1}$  during August) was the second one and the most abundant, comprising 0.49 % of the total zooplankton (Fig. 5).

December 2010).	G4 4* 1	St. 4 <b>* 2</b>	G4 4° 2	G4 4* 4
Physicochemical parameters	Station 1	Station 2	Station 3	Station 4
Depth (m)	5.13±0.90	5.67±1.15	4.02±1.09	6.01±0.46
Transparency (Secchi disk) (m)	$1.95 \pm 0.95$	$1.56\pm0.77$	0.93±0.53	$1.72 \pm 0.70$
Chlorophyll-a (mg m <sup>-3</sup> )	3.27±2.29	2.89±1.13	3.03±179	2.91±1.31
Turbidity (NTU)	3.65±4.94	5.75±4.96	$8.06 \pm 4.58$	4.73±3.56
Temperature (° C)	16.86±7.13	16.51±7.32	$16.08 \pm 7.14$	$16.00 \pm 7.18$
pH	8.63±0.53	8.97±0.29	8.96±0.29	8.98±0.30
Conductivity (µS,20 °C)	346±45.7	343±59.4	344±69.5	342±53.8
Dissolved oxygen (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	9.46±1.99	9.43±2.70	9.42±2.55	9.45±2.77
Saturation of dissolved oxygen (%)	93.72±14.90	93.52±16.27	90.37±14.55	91.86±16.32
Chloride (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	8.29±3.70	8.77±3.82	9.14±4.64	9.05±4.79
Organic substance (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	16.40±3.86	$17.19 \pm 4.31$	$18.27 \pm 3.66$	17.43±3.16
Bicarbonate (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	259.35±24.75	$252.74{\pm}21.14$	$245.83 \pm 22.35$	249.78±24.27
Carbonate (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	$13.90 \pm 2.78$	18±4.66	$18.35 \pm 5.00$	$17.40 \pm 4.48$
Total Hardness (° F )	27.67±3.75	$25.50 \pm 2.88$	26.75±2.73	27.08±2.19
Calcium (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	46.42±13.39	$40.17 \pm 11.14$	36.84±3.47	38.51±6.76
Magnesium (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	39.07±11.60	38.41±10.33	45.57±7.25	41.96±6.76
Nitrate (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	$1.56\pm0.92$	$1.72 \pm 1.05$	1.67±0.99	$1.89 \pm 1.32$
Nitrite (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	$0.03 \pm 0.01$	$0.03 \pm 0.01$	$0.04 \pm 0.02$	$0.03 \pm 0.02$
Ammonium (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	$0.10\pm0.06$	0.12±0.13	$0.09 \pm 0.03$	$0.20\pm0.26$
Sulphate (mg $L^{-1}$ )	23.51±8.24	44.50±15.28	46.59±15.88	43.34±11.42
Silica (mg L <sup>-1</sup> )	$4.44{\pm}1.82$	4.77±1.51	4.12±1.56	4.19±1.67
Phosphate $(mg L^{-1})$	0.14±0.13	$0.14\pm0.16$	0.19±0.22	0.26±0.27
Acid power SBV (mL acid)	5.27±0.33	5.17±0.19	5.08±0.28	5.17±0.21

Table 1: The mean change in physicochemical condition of Eğirdir Lake by stations (January-December 2010).

 Table 2: Codes of monthly distribution of vertical zooplankton and species which are related with correspondance analysis.

Species	Codes (CCA)	J	F	Μ	Α	Μ	J	J	Α	S	0	Ν	D
Rotifera													
Keratella cochlearis (Gosse 1851)	Kelcoc	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Keratella quadrata (Müller 1786)	Kelqua	*	*								*		
Asplanchna priodonta Gosse 1850	Asppir	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Synchaeta pectinata Ehrenberg 1832	Synpec	*		*	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*
Polyarthra dolichoptera Idelson	Poldol	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
1925													
Filinia longiseta (Ehrenberg 1834)	Fillon						*	*	*	*	*		*
Brachionus angularis Gosse 1851	Braang						*	*	*	*	*		
Brachionus calyciflorus (Pallas	Bracal	*		*		*							
1766)													
Brachionus patulus (Müller 1786)	Brapat						*						
Hexarthra mira (Hudson 1871)	Hexmir						*		*	*	*		
Ascomorpha sp.	Ascomo		*					*	*				*

Table 2 continued:														
Conochilus dossuarius (Hudson	Condos						*	*	*	*	*			
1885)														
Trichocerca similis (Wierzejski	Trisim						*	*	*	*	*	*		
1893)														
Trichocerca cylindrica (Imhof 1891)	Tricylin							*	*	*	*	*		
Trichocerca bicristata (Gosse 1887)	Tribic										*			
Trichocerca capucina Wierzejski &	Tricap								*	*	*			
Zacharias 1893														
Testudinella patina (Hermann 1783)	Tespat												*	
Notholca squamula (Müller 1786)	Notsqu			*										
Lecane flexilis (Gosse 1886)	Lecflexi										*			
Platyias quadricornis (Ehrenberg	Platquad						*							
1832)														
Cephalodella gibba (Ehrenberg	Cepgib							*						
1830)														
Cladocera														
Bosmina longirostris (Müller 1785)	Boslong	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Alona quadrangularis (Müller 1785)	Aloquad		*					*						
Coronatella rectangula (Sars 1861)	Alorec								*	*			*	
Chydorus sphaericus (Müller 1776)	Chyspha		*			*		*	*		*		*	
Ceriodaphnia quadrangula (Müller	Ceriquad								*	*	*			
1785)														
Daphnia cucullata Sars 1862	Dapcuc								*	*		*		
Acroperus harpae (Baird 1835)	Acrohar									*			*	
Diaphanosoma lacutris Korinek	Dialac									*	*	*		
1981														
Graptoleberis testudinaria (Fischer	Graptes							*						
1848)														
Copepoda														
Nitocra hibernica (Brady 1880)	Nithib	*					*	*	*		*	*		
Eucyclops speratus (Lilljeborg 1901)	Eusphae		*											
Mesocyclops leuckarti bodanicola	Mesoleuc	*				*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
(Kiefer 1928)														
Nauplius larvae	Naupli	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	

#### Table 3: Results of Monte Carlo test.

Axis	Variance	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	р
1	0.492	0.387	0.265	0.485	0.0010
2	0.327	0.270	0.159	0.347	0.0230
3	0.254	0.192	0.118	0.304	0.0480

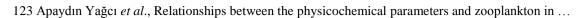
#### Table 4: Test results of monte Carlo's correlation of species and physicochemical variables.

Axis	Variance	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	р
1	0.971	0.884	0.750	0.966	0.0010
2	0.926	0.854	0.706	0.983	0.0460
3	0.902	0.830	0.626	0.971	0.1331

#### Table 5: Correlations between variables.

Parameters	Cod	Axis I	Axis II	Axis III
Depth	Depth	0.167	0.051	-0.025
Light permeability	Secchi	-0.044	0.256	-0.007
Turbidity	Turbid	0.095	-0.193	-0.087
Temperature	Temper	-0.492	0.214	0.363
Conductivity	Konduct	-0.750	-0.023	-0.141
pH	pН	0.556	-0.253	0.284

Table 5 continued:				
Dissolved oxygen	Oxygen	0.251	-0.410	-0.473
Saturation of dissolved oxygen	Satuoxyg	0.095	-0.475	-0.583
Silica	Silica	-0.313	-0.164	-0.032
Nitrate	Nitrate	0.381	0.138	0.305
Nitrite	Nitrite	0.067	-0.185	-0.143
Ammonium	Ammonium	0.571	-0.153	-0.056
Phosphate	Phospha	-0.039	0.127	0.245
Organic substance	Orgasubs	0.513	-0.372	-0.118
Chloride	Chloride	-0.498	-0.265	0.466
Bicarbonate	Bicarbon	-0.194	0.189	0.037
Carbonate	Carbon	-0.528	-0.240	-0.322
Total Hardness	Hardness	0.394	-0.184	-0.158
Calcium	Calci	0.454	0.306	-0.144
Magnesium	Magne	-0.059	-0.359	-0.007
Acid Power	SBV	-0.022	0.166	-0.263
Sulphate	Sulfate	-0.443	-0.362	0.192
Chlorophyll-a	Chlorop-a	-0.229	-0.031	-0.281



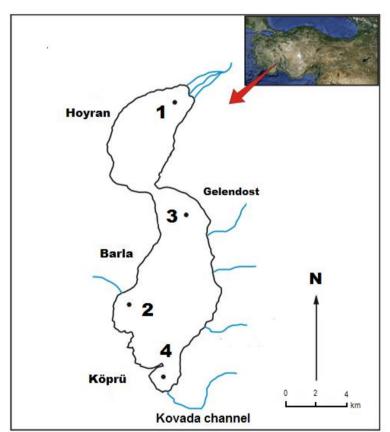


Figure 1: Map of Eğirdir Lake and stations (Station 1: 38° 15' 48"N, 30° 49' 17"E; Station 2: 37° 58' 50"N, 30° 47' 32"E; Station 3: 38° 05' 14"N, 30° 55' 45"E; Station 4: 37° 50' 52"N, 30° 51' 29"E.

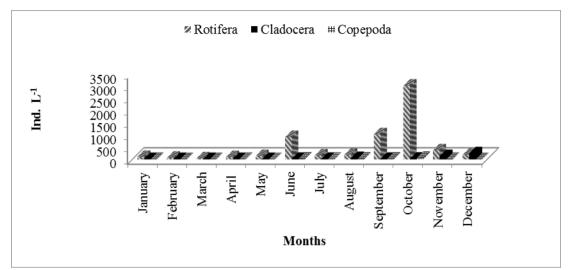


Figure 2: Density variations of zooplanktonic groups during the study period.

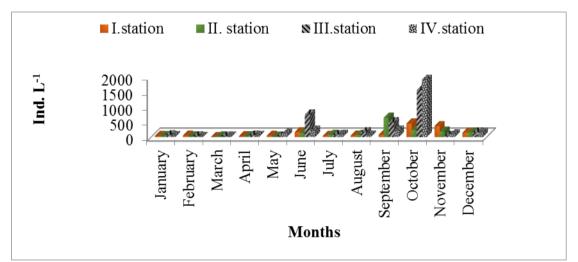


Figure 3: Density variations of zooplankton in four sampling stations during the study period.

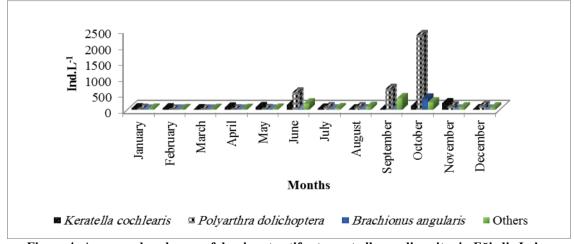


Figure 4: Average abundances of dominant rotifer taxa at all sampling sites in Eğirdir Lake.

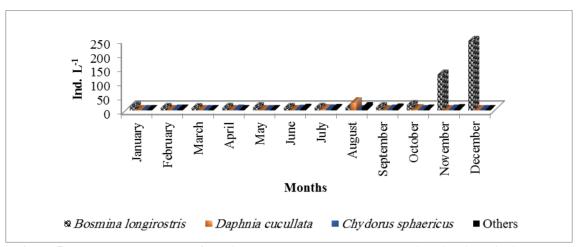
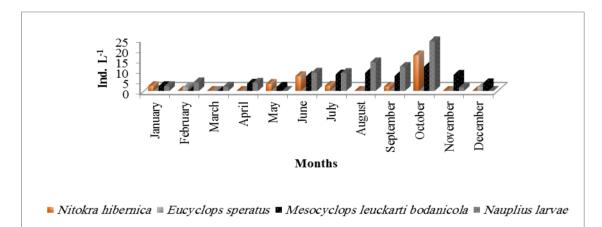


Figure 5: Average abundances of dominant cladocera taxa at all sampling sites in Eğirdir Lake.



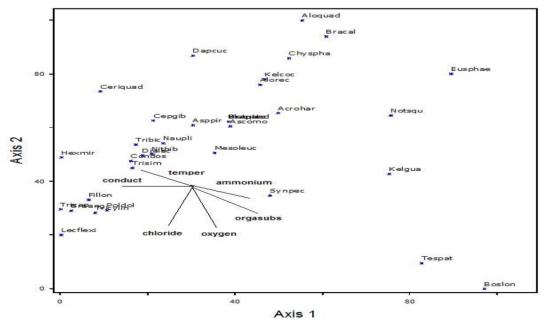


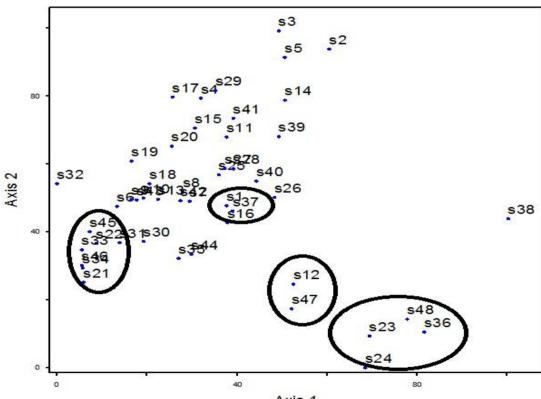
Figure 6: Average abundances of dominant copepod taxa at all sampling sites in Eğirdir Lake.

Figure 7: Canonical correspondance analysis of the zooplankton species and selected physical and chemical parameters at four sampling sites in Eğirdir Lake.

Copepoda was the third and the most abundant zooplankton group. N.hibernica, E. speratus, M. leuckarti bodanicola and Nauplius larvae comprised about 2.60 % of the total zooplankton present during the period of study. The population density of Copepoda reached a maximum of 53  $Ind.L^{-1}$  during September (Fig. 2). The lowest copepoda density was encountered during March, with a value of about 2 Ind.L<sup>-1</sup>. *E. speratus* was only February recorded during and December (Fig. 6).

Statistical analysis

Canonical correspondance analysis of zooplankton against water quality parameters (Fig. 7) summarized the major trends in the distribution of the zooplankton groups during the study period. According to the CCA; variance of the 1<sup>st</sup> axis was 0.492, variance of the 2<sup>nd</sup> axis was 0.327, and variance of the 3<sup>rd</sup> axis was 0.254. Here, share of the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> axes are relatively high (81.9%) in the total varience (Table 3). The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> axes were found significant according to results of Monte Carlo Test (p<0.05) (Tables 3, 4).



Axis 1

Figure 8: Canonical correspondance analysis (CCA) ordination plots for stations, months and environmental variables (Monthly and stations codes are s1: January-1<sup>st</sup> station; s12: December-1<sup>st</sup> station; s16: April-2<sup>nd</sup> station; s21: March-2<sup>nd</sup> station; s22: October-2<sup>nd</sup> station; s23: November-2<sup>nd</sup> station; s24: December-2<sup>nd</sup> station; s33: September-3<sup>rd</sup> station; s34: April-3<sup>rd</sup> station; s36: December-3<sup>rd</sup> station; s43: January-4<sup>th</sup> station; s45: September-4<sup>th</sup> station; s46: October-4<sup>th</sup> station; s47: November-4<sup>th</sup> station; s48: December-4<sup>th</sup> station).

In terms of the correlation of physicochemical variables, in the 1<sup>st</sup> axis conductivity and carbonate showed negative correlation. and pH. organic substance ammonium and showed positive correlation. Beside this, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> axis, dissolved oxygen and saturation of dissolved oxygen showed negative correlation (Table 5). Distribution similarity of zooplankton species between stations is shown in Fig. 8.

## Discussion

Rotifera were strongly dominant throughout the year and were the main contributors to the above mentioned abundance peaks. Dominant species were P. dolichoptera, K. cochlearis and angularis. Dominant cladocera *B*. species was B. longirostris. The annual mean zooplankton recorded during the present study of 581 Ind.L<sup>-1</sup>, were for Rotifera 89.62%, recorded Cladocera 7.78 % and Copepoda 2.60%. In this research, when the zooplanktonic organisms are evaluated according to CCA, with the  $1^{st}$  axis A. priodonta, B. longirostris, M. leuckarti bodanicola, H. mira, P. dolichoptera, C. dossuarius, T. similis, T. cylindrica, F. longiseta and B. angularis are highly related species. B. longirostris which are of these species shows positive correlation in the 1<sup>st</sup> axis, but the others show negative correlation. In the  $2^{nd}$ axis, only S. pectinata, B. longirostris and M. leuckarti bodanicola species are related negatively (Fig. 7). According to CCA, B. longirostris was found in

some areas where pH, ammonium, organic substance and dissolved oxygen are high, temperature and conductivity are low. Besides; another research in Niger Delta by Arimora and Oganah (2010) shows that *B. longirostris* is seen in areas where conductivity level is high. This species was recorded in Lake Sünnet where level of conductivity and pH is high (Deveci *et al.*, 2011).

**El-Bassat** and Taylor (2007)reported that in Lake Abu Zaabal in Egypt, B. longirostris was found in areas where the temperature is low. On the contrary to our research, a research was done by Lougheed and Chow-Fraser (2002) that shows that *B*. longirostris is found in areas where dissolved oxygen and temperature are high. In this research, while T. patina was found in areas where the proportion of dissolved oxygen, ammonium and organic substance is high, in Niger Delta, it was recorded in areas where the conductivity level is high (Arimora Oganah, 2010). During our and research the species A. priodonta, H. mira, C. dossuarius and T. similis were found in places where the temperature level is high. In the spring of River Tejo in Portugal, A. priodonta and T. similis were found where the temperature level is high (Baião and Boavida, 2005), in Lake Abu Zaabal, Egypt; (El-Bassat and Taylor, 2007), A. priodonta was found in places where the temperature level is high. A research by Deveci et al. (2011) in Lake Sünnet, found T. similis in where pH areas and conductivity level were low. Our research shows that S. pectinata and K. quadrata are found in places where dissolved oxygen, organic substance and ammonium level are high in Eğirdir Lake. In the Lake Sünnet, with cold water (Deveci et al., 2011) K. quadrata was recorded in areas where the dissolved oxygen level is high. In Lake Abu Zaabal, Egypt; K. quadrata was found in places where the temperature level is high (El-Bassat and Taylor, 2007). In addition to our research, T. capucina, B. angularis, T. cylindrica, P. dolichoptera, L. flexilis and F. longiseta were found in areas where temperature, conductivity and chloride level are high. In Lake Sünnet B. angularis was seen in places where pH conductivity level are high, and P.dolichoptera was found in places where the temperature level is high that is similar with our results. Also, F. longiseta cold water species was recorded in Lake Sünnet. According to our CCA; B. calyciflorus, K. cochlearis, C. rectangula and A. quadrangularis were found in areas where dissolved oxygen, ammonium, organic substance, conductivity and temperature levels are low. In contrast to that; in River Tejo, Portugal, В. calyciflorus and Κ. cochlearis were found in places where temperature level is high. According to the results of our research; N. hibernica was found in areas where conductivity and temperature level are high, D. lacustris was found in areas where dissolved oxygen level is low. At the same time, C. sphaericus was found in places where the conductivity level is low, M. leuckarti bodanicola was in places where the chloride level is low. In Niger Delta, Chydorus reticulatus and Cyhdorus ventricosus were found in areas where the conductivity level is high, Alona sp., was found in where the dissolved oxygen level is high. Tackx et al. (2004) work in an estuary showed that, M. leuckarti bodanicola was found in places where pH and chloride levels are high. According to CCA in Lake Sünnet while Daphnia longispina has positive relation with pH and conductivity, C. sphaericus, N. acuminata, L. luna and L. lunaris have with negative relations dissolved oxygen. In River Tejo, Portugal, CCA on Rotifers K. quadrata and K. cochlearis showed their presence in areas where chlorophyll-a level is high while H. mira, also a Rotifer was found in areas where chlorophyll-a level is low. In Lake Abu Zaabal of Egypt, according to CCA; B. quadridentatus of the Rotifers has high relation with temperature. According to CCA; C. sphaericus was in areas where dissolved oxygen and temperature level are low (Lougheed and Chow-Fraser, 2002). Lougheed and Chow-Fraser (2002) reported that C. quadrangula was found in places where chlorophylla, conductivity and pH levels are low.

Similarities between stations with our CCA in the evaluation species distribution are similiar in December in the  $3^{rd}$  and the  $4^{th}$  stations, but the  $2^{nd}$  station has similarities in November and December. In addition, the  $2^{nd}$ 

station has similarities in March and October, the  $3^{rd}$  station has similarities in September and April (Fig. 8).

The result of this study suggests that the rotifers, *S.pectinata*, *P. dolichoptera*, *F. longiseta*, *B. angularis*, *H. mira*, *C. dossuarius*, *T. similis*, *T. cylindrica* and *T. capucina* and the crustaceans; *M. leuckarti bodanicola* were less sensitive to environmental variables.

Pearson and Kendall's correlation coefficient indicated several that environmental variables including dissolved temperature, conductivity, oxygen, ammonium, pH, organic substance and chloride a considerable influence on the zooplankton abundance.

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