



Ain Shams University
Faculty of Science
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Environmental Studies on Invertebrates of Lake Qaroun (Fayoum, Egypt) for Proper Management of its Natural Resources

*A Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment for the award of the Degree of
Doctor Philosophy in Zoology (Aquatic Ecology)*

BY

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Abstract

The present study was carried out on Lake Qaroun during the period from May 2014 to February 2015 to assess water quality of the lake and 2 trophic levels (zooplankton and macro benthos) to set up a proper management plan for enhancing the lake's productivity.

The results revealed that the areas in front of El-Bats and El-Wadi drains exhibited somewhat of organic pollution; lowest transparency, DO and salinity values. In addition, the water in front of El-Wadi drain recorded the highest values of iron (Fe), copper (Cu) and nitrates (NO₃). On the other hand, zooplankton community was represented by five groups; Rotifera, Protozoa, Arthropoda, Annelida and Nematoda. Rotifera was the most dominant group representing 75.68% of total zooplankton, which is an indicator of eutrophication of the lake. Furthermore, the study revealed that most of freshwater zooplankton species disappeared due to increasing of salinity with few freshwater species that could tolerate high salinity ranges. The community of macrobenthic invertebrates was represented by four groups; Arthropoda (68.55%), Annelida (18.55%), Mollusca (11.84%) and Coelentrata (1.06%). *Corophium acherosicum* was the most dominant species (34.91%) and it is considered a bioindicator of organic pollution. In addition, Morphoedaphic Index (MEI) was calculated to assess the existing yield and derive estimates of the future potential yield. The result revealed that the lake production has been decreased than the expected yield. Furthermore, the relationship between zooplankton, macrobenthos and fish production reflects instability of fish production as a result of implementation of irrational and unevaluated composition from period to another due to variation in species composition of transplanted fry. Analysis of DPSIR framework components enabled us to get proposed policies and responses to mitigate the effect of pressures and their impacts. In the management plan, it was recommended to monitor water quality and salinity; to treat waste water before discharging into the lake, as well as examining the newly transmitted fish fry to avoid invasive and parasitic species that destroyed the productivity of the lake during the last 3 years.

Key words: Lake Qaroun, invertebrates, management plan



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Contents

	Page
Acknowledgments	
1. Introduction	1
2. Review of Literature	4
2.1. Water quality and physico-chemical properties.....	4
2.2. Zooplankton	7
2.3. Macrobenthic Invertebrates	10
3. Materials and Methods	14
3.1. Lake Description and Characteristics	14
3.2. Sampling Procedures	19
3.3. Samples Analyses	20
3.3.1. Abiotic Factors	20
3.3.1.1. Transparency	20
3.3.1.2. Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)	20
3.3.1.3. Major Cations	20
3.3.1.4. Major Anions	21
3.3.1.5. Trace Metals	21
3.3.2. Biotic Factors	21
3.3.2.1. Zooplankton Samples	21
3.3.2.2. Macrobenthic Samples	22
3.4. Data Treatments and Statistical Analysis	22
3.5. Management Plan	24
4. Results and Discussion	25
4.1. Abiotic Factors	25
4.1.1. Water Temperature	25

4.1.2. Water Transparency	27
4.1.3. Electrical Conductivity	29
4.1.4. Dissolved Oxygen (DO)	31
4.1.5. Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD)	33
4.1.6. Hydrogen Ion Concentration (pH)	35
4.1.7. Salinity	37
4.1.8. Nitrite Concentration (NO ₂)	40
4.1.9. Nitrate Concentration (NO ₃)	40
4.1.10. Phosphate Concentration (PO ₄ ⁻³)	43
4.1.11. Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	45
4.1.12. Chloride Concentration (Cl ⁻)	47
4.1.13. Calcium Concentration (Ca ⁺⁺)	50
4.1.14. Magnesium Concentration (Mg ⁺⁺)	52
4.1.15. Heavy Metals	55
4.1.15.1. Copper (Cu)	55
4.1.15.2. Iron (Fe)	57
4.1.15.3. Manganese (Mn)	58
4.1.15.4. Other Heavy Metals	59
4.2. Biotic Factors	60
4.2.1. Zooplankton	60
4.2.1.1. Community Structure and Density	60
4.2.1.1.1. Community Structure of Rotifera	66
4.2.1.1.1.1. <i>Brachionus</i> spp.	70
4.2.1.1.1.2. <i>Philodina</i> sp.	73
4.2.1.1.1.3. <i>Synchaeta pectinate</i>	73
4.2.1.1.1.4. <i>Keratella</i> spp.	75
4.2.1.1.1.5. Other rare rotifer species	77
4.2.1.1.2. Community Structure of Protozoa	77

4.2.1.1.2.1. <i>Euplotes</i> sp.	81
4.2.1.1.2.2. <i>Tintinopsis</i> spp.	82
4.2.1.1.2.3. <i>Favella</i> sp.	84
4.2.1.1.3. Community Structure of Arthropoda	85
4.2.1.1.3.1. Nauplius Larvae of Copepods	88
4.2.1.1.3.2. Nauplius Larvae of Cirripeds	90
4.2.1.1.3.3. Copepodite Stage	91
4.2.1.1.3.4. <i>Paracartia latisetosa</i>	93
4.2.1.1.3.5. Cypris Larvae of Cirripeds	94
4.2.1.1.4. Community Structure of Annelida	94
4.2.1.1.5. Other Rare Zooplankton	96
4.2.1.2. Zooplankton Diversity	98
4.2.2. Macrobenthic Invertebrates	101
4.2.2.1. Community Structure and Density	101
4.2.2.1.1. Species Composition of Arthropoda	106
4.2.2.1.1.1. <i>Corophium acherusicum</i>	108
4.2.2.1.1.2. <i>Gammarus aequicauda</i>	110
4.2.2.1.1.3. <i>Balanus pallidus</i>	112
4.2.2.1.1.4. <i>Chironomus</i> Larvae	113
4.2.2.1.1.5. Other rare Arthropoda species	115
4.2.2.1.2. Species Composition of Annelida	115
4.2.2.1.2.1. <i>Ficopomatus enigmaticus</i>	117
4.2.2.1.2.2. <i>Limnodrillus</i> sp.	119
4.2.2.1.2.3. <i>Polydora hoplura</i>	121
4.2.2.1.2.4. <i>Neries diversicolor</i>	122
4.2.2.1.3. Species Composition of Mollusca	124
4.2.2.1.3.1. <i>Cerastoderma glaucum</i>	127
4.2.2.1.3.2. <i>Pirenella conica</i>	129

4.2.2.1.3.3. <i>Venerupis aurea</i>	131
4.2.2.1.3.4. <i>Abra ovata</i>	133
4.2.2.1.3.5. <i>Bulla ampulla</i>	134
4.2.2.1.3.6. <i>Nassarius cuvierii</i>	134
4.2.2.1.3.7. <i>Monodonta</i> sp.	135
4.2.2.1.4. Species Composition of Coelentrata	135
4.2.2.2. Macrobenthos Diversity	137
4.3. Limnological data and fish production of Lake Qaroun	140
4.3.1. Estimation of fish potential yield and management strategy	140
4.3.2. Relationship between zooplankton, macrobenthos and fish production	144
5. Lake Qaroun Management Plan	147
5.1. Introduction	147
5.2. Framework for managing pressures due to anthropogenic factors	155
I. Urbanization	155
II. Tourism	156
III. Salinity	158
IV. Invasive species	159
V. Intensive agriculture and sewage drainage water	163
VI. Demand for food and money	164
5.3. Management Plan of Lake Qaroun	166
5.4. General response to mitigate impacts of pressures facing lake Qaroun	168
5.4.1. To mitigate overfishing impacts	168
5.4.2. To mitigate impacts of intensive agriculture,	

reclamation, tourism at Lake Qaroun	168
5.4.3. Empowering legal framework	168
5.4.4. Implementation	169
English Summary	171
References	187
Arabic Summary	
Arabic Abstract	



Introduction