

**THE COMPOSITION DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF ZOOPLANKTON  
IN KALAWEWA H1 AREA IN SRI LANKA**

**by**

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The composition density and distribution of zooplankton in Kalawewa H1 area were investigated from January 1979 to December 1980 at 10 selected sites (5 in the reservoir, 2 in distributing canals, 1 in a field and 2 in drainage canals). Zooplankton samples were collected approximately at one month intervals using a 80 um plankton net.

Thirty seven zooplankton species were recorded : 26 rotifers, 7 cladocerans and 4 copepods. A marked reduction in their numbers was noted along the flow-through system throughout the period of study: highest at the reservoir and lowest at the drainage canals.

At a given time, amongst the 5 sites, within the reservoir, there was no significant difference in either the total number of zooplankton or their composition, thus indicating that there is no patchiness in the distribution of zooplankton in the open waters of the reservoir. However, a significant seasonal fluctuation in density of zooplankton was evident during the period of study. Further, a powerful correlation between zooplankton density and the rate of water output of the reservoir was noted.