

## Biodiversity and abundance of microalgae and cyanobacteria from freshwaters habitat of three districts of Tamil Nadu, India

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### Abstract

The present study revealed the diversity of microalgae and cyanobacteria in the fresh water samples from of Thanjavur, Karaikudi and Tiruchirappalli locations, Tamil Nadu, India. A total of 94 species microalgae belonging to three taxonomic groups were identified, of which 47 species were belonging to Cyanophyceae, 16 species from Chlorophyceae and 37 species from Bacillariophyceae. *Oscillatoria* sp., *Nostoc* sp., *Microcystis* sp., *Chroococcus* sp., *Gloecapsa* sp., *Merismopedia* sp., *Lyngbya* sp. and *Anabaena* sp. (5%) were found to be among the cyanophyceae family. Whereas, Bacillariophyceae, *Navicula* sp., *Cymbella* sp., *Gomphonema* sp., *Nitzschia* sp. *Cyclotella* sp. *Gyrosigma* sp. and *Grammatophora* sp. were predominant and in Chlorophyceae, *Cosmarium* sp., *Chlorella* sp. *Ankistrodesmus* sp. *Closterium* sp. and *Selanastrum* sp was found to be abundant. The environmental variables appear to play a significant role in determining the species richness and diversity.

**Keywords:** biodiversity, water analysis, correlation and cyanobacteria

### Introduction

Cyanobacteria are a group of photosynthetic prokaryotes comprising more than 150 genera and 2200 species that play diverse yet significant roles in aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems [1]. Cyanobacteria are known as “Primary Producers” by ecologists point. Cyanobacteria display inhabits morphology structure and metabolism including photosynthesis and its regulation, N<sub>2</sub> fixation, metabolism of carbon, nitrogen and hydrogen: resistance to environmental stress and molecular evolution. Excessive growth of cyanobacteria called as Blooms, which represents a serious threat to aquatic ecosystems [2-6]. They are one of the significant primary producers in the natural ecosystems [7, 8]. Cyanobacteria are commonly found in diverse habitats [9] Filamentous cyanobacteria such as, *Nostoc* sp., *Spirulina* sp., *Arthrospira* sp., *Anabaena* sp., *Aphanizomenon* sp. and *Rivularia* sp. many others are particularly attractive for the production of high quality biomass, because they represent a source of protein and a variety of chemicals and pharmaceuticals [10]. Pigments such as phycobiliprotein, carotenoid and chlorophyll as natural colorants in food are gaining importance over the synthetic ones as they are non-toxic and non-carcinogenic [11]. [12, 13] reported that microalga FAME showed antimicrobial activity. Phycobiliproteins (PBP) are naturally occurring water soluble fluorescent pigments produced by cyanobacteria and some eukaryotic algae [14]. Our previous research reported that phycobilins mediated synthesis of nanoparticles from cyanobacteria showed antibacterial activity [15, 16]. The algal taxa both planktonic and benthic are important among other aquatic micro taxa which are found at different depths, where physicochemical properties of water influence the algal population and its occurrence [17, 18]. P<sup>H</sup> and DO are very important factors which affects water eutrophication [19]. Analysis of biota represents qualitative characteristic of

particular water system [20]. A water system dominated by green algae and diatoms is relatively clean oligotrophic water whereas dominance by bloom forming blue green algae indicates polluted or eutrophic condition. In several water bodies eutrophication has resulted in the changes of species composition and biomass of algal communities [19]. The present investigation dealt with the collection diversity analysis and abundance of microalgae from different locations of Thanjavur, Karaikudi and Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India.

### Materials and Methods

#### Sample collection and study area

Cyanobacteria and microalgae samples were collected from different locations of Tiruchirappalli, Karaikudi and Thanjavur locations of Tamil Nadu, India. The sampling habitat includes freshwater, rice fields and stagnant water bodies. Samplings were done by using sample vials, plastic bags with aid of planktonic nets.

#### Isolation and maintenance of Cultures

The isolated cyanobacteria isolates were brought to the microalgal Germplasm, Department of Microbiology, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli and maintained with specific culture conditions. The cultures were grown in BG11 medium [21] Chu 10 medium [22] and F/2 medium [23]. All the collected cyanobacteria isolates were maintained at pH 6.8, 24 °C ± 2 °C light intensity of 14.4 ± 1 Wm<sup>2</sup> a 16/8 h light/dark cycle photoperiod reported by [24] for further study.

#### Identification of Cyanobacteria by Light microscope

Morphological observations [presence and absence of sheath, shape and size of the vegetative cells, heterocysts, akinetes (if present), position, and branching pattern] of the

axenic cultures of cyanobacteria images were captured at Micros Austria MCX500 microscope in 100X magnification, as described by Desikachary [25].

**Determination of physicochemical properties of water samples**

The physicochemical properties of water such as pH, temperature, alkalinity, nitrate, calcium, magnesium, chloride, conductivity, total dissolved solids, salinity, and dissolved oxygen were measured as per the following standard protocol [26].

**Biodiversity and statistical analysis**

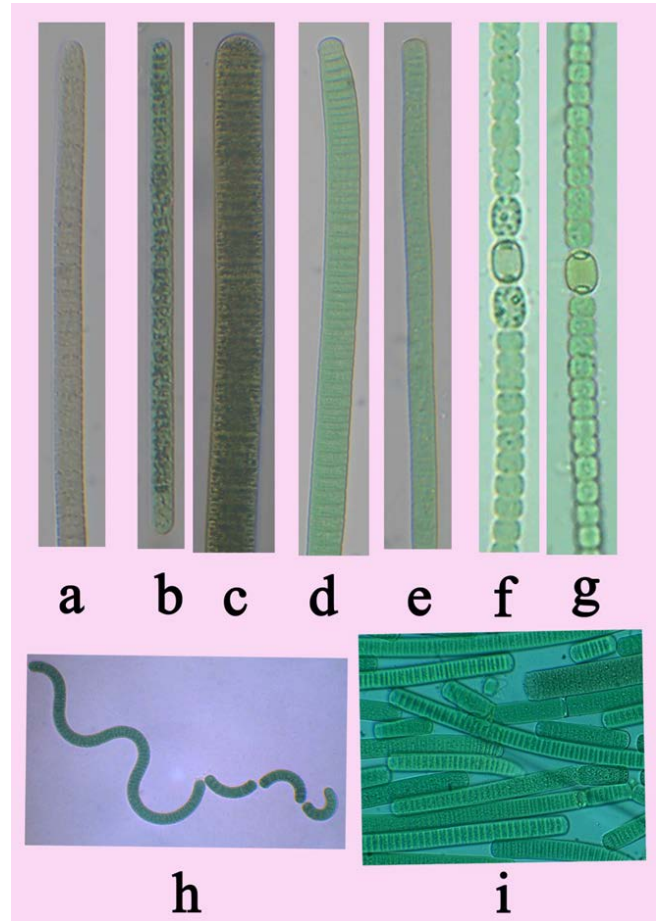
All the statistical analysis was performed using SPSS statistical software (vesion 17.0 for Windows, SPSS, Chicago, IL, USA). Paleontological statistics software package (versiton 2.10 for windows, PAST, Copy right by [27].

**Results and Discussion**

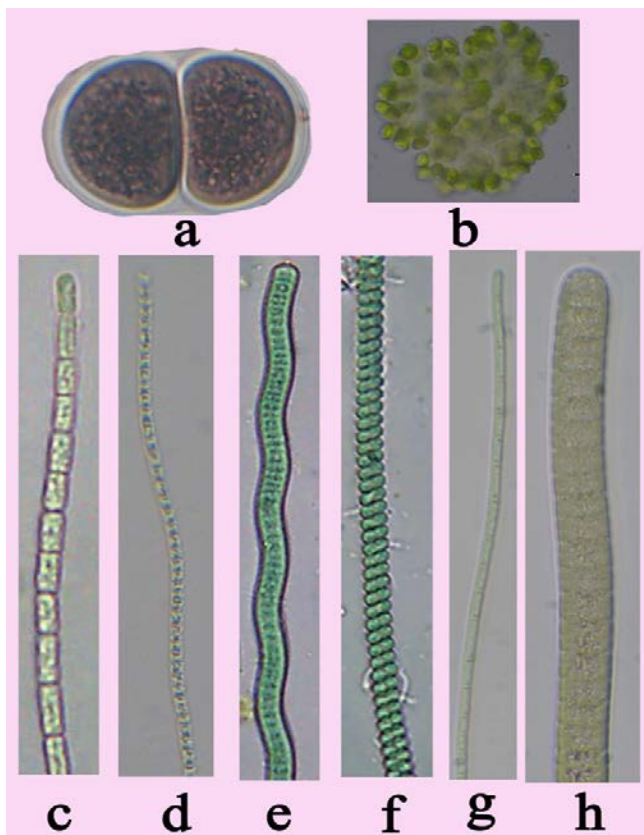
In this study, freshwater samples were collected from different locations of Tamil Nadu Such as Thanjavur, Karaikudi and Tiruchirappalli in which benthic, edaphic and planktonic samples were collected based on the collection possibilities.

**Identification of microalgae from collected samples**

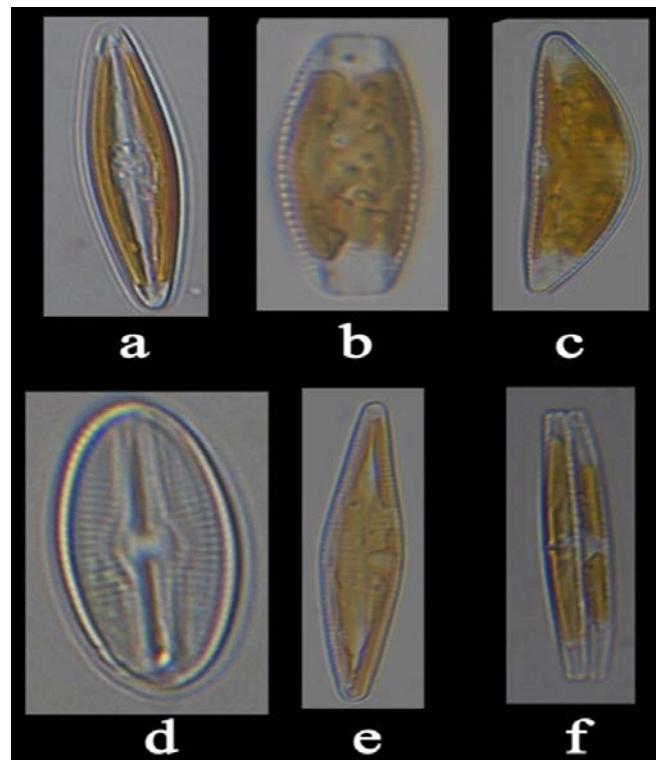
In the present study, collected microalgae samples were identified by using light microscope. Cyanobacteria and diatoms and green algae images were captured Micros Austria MCX500 microscope in 100X (Figure. 1-6).



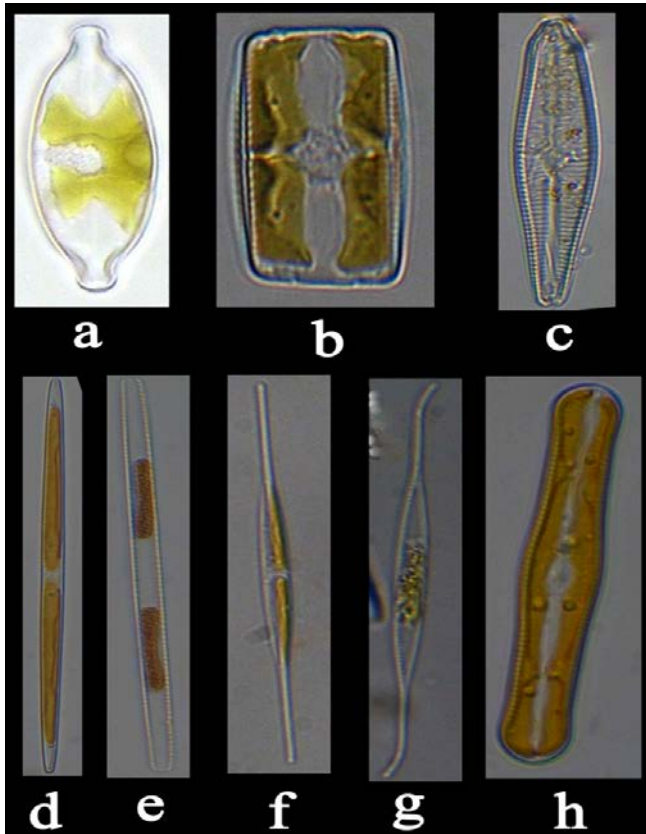
**Fig 2:** Morphology of cyanobacteria by microscopic view (a-i) - (a) *Oscillatoria boryana*; (b) *Oscillatoria perornata*; (c) *Oscillatoria subbrevis*; (d) *Oscillatoria princeps*; (e) *Oscillatoria chalybea*; (f) *Anabaena sphaerica*; (g) *Anabaena circinalis*; (h) *Arthrospira massartii*; (i) *Oscillatoria princeps*



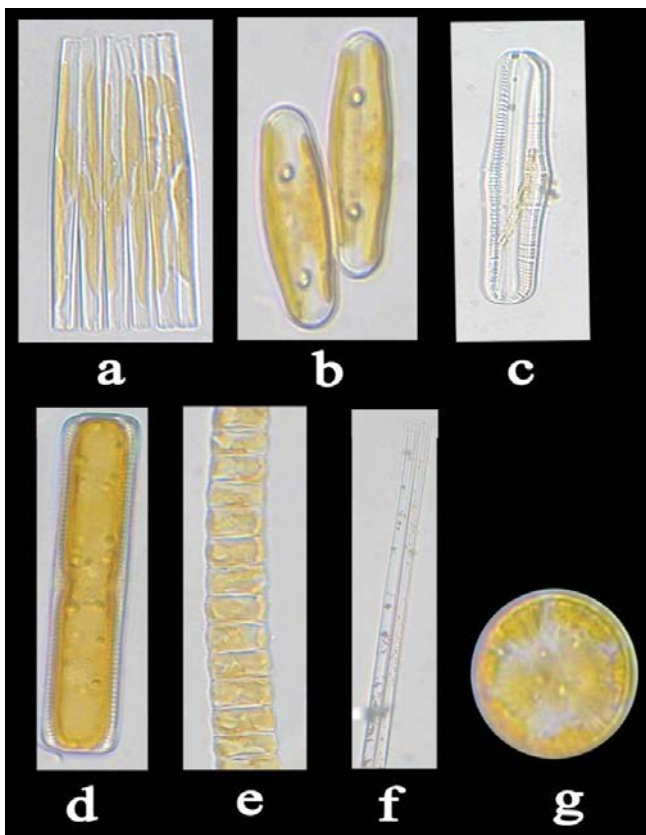
**Fig 1:** Microscopic view of cyanobacteria -(a-h)- (a) *Chroococcus turgidus*; (b) *Gomphosphaeria aponina*; (c) *Oscillatoria claricentrosa*; (d) *Oscillatoria pseudogeminata*; (e) *Arthrospira platensis*; (f) *Spirulina subsalsa*; (g) *Oscillatoria limnetica*; (h) *Oscillatoria rubescens*



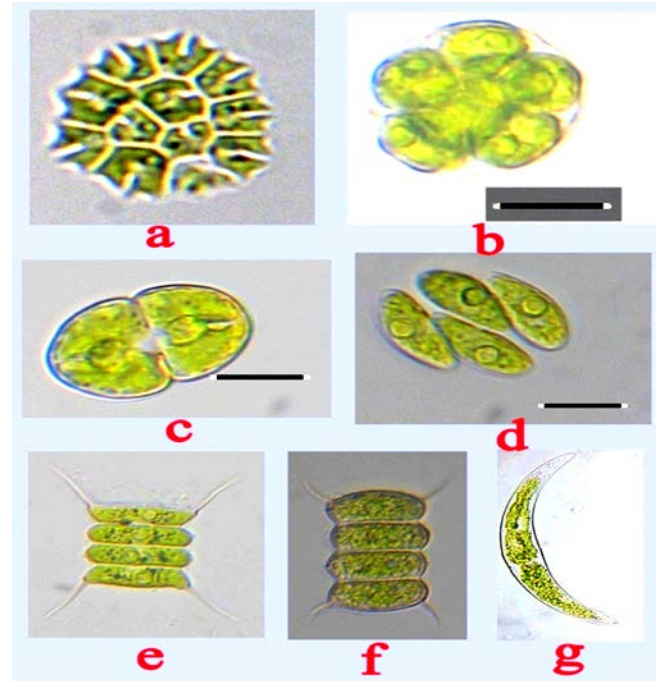
**Fig 3:** Morphology of diatoms (a-f) a. *Navicula cryptocephala*, b. *Amphora ovalis*, c. *Cymbella ventricosa*, d. *Cocconeis placentula*, e. *Gomphonema subtile*, f. *Nitzschia punctata*



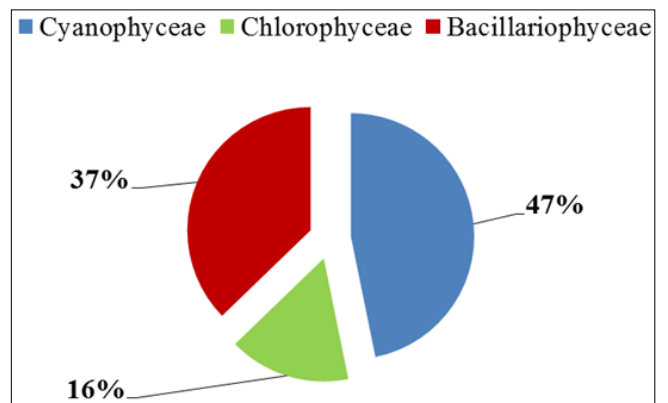
**Fig: 4** Microscopic view of diatoms (a-h) - (a) *Anomoeoneis sphaerophora*; (b) *Trigonium arcticum*; (c) *Gomphonema constrictum*; (d) *Nitzschia insignis*; (e) *Nitzschia recta*; (f) *Nitzschia acicularis*; (g) *Nitzschia longissima*; (h) *Pinnularia interrupta*



**Fig 5:** Microscopic view of diatoms (a-g)- (a) *Licmophora abbreviate*; (b) *Neidium iridis*; (c) *Caloneis silicula*; (d) *Trachyneis aspera*; (e) *Fragilaria capucina* (f) *Synedra splendens*; (g) *Cyclotella meneghiniana*



**Fig 6:** Microscopic view of Green algae (a-f)- (a) *Pediastrum* sp.; (b) *Coelastrum microporum*; (c) *Cosmarium pseudopyramidatum*; (d) *Scenedesmus graevenitzii*; (e) *Scenedesmus maximus*; (f) *Scenedesmus biaudatus*; (g) *Closterium* sp.



**Fig 7:** Microalgae family wise composition in collected location

**Percentage of abundance of microalgae composition in collected locations**

The microalgae (Cyanobacteria, green algae and diatoms) abundance in among all sampling locations (Table 1) of Karaikudi showed highest followed by Thanjavur and Tiruchirappalli. Moreover, the study reveals that maximum percentage was found to be Cyanophyceae (47%) followed by Bacillariophyceae (37%) and Cholorophyceae (16%) by family wise abundance in collected sampling locations (Fig. 7). The microalgae family wise composition of Thanjavur showed Cyanophyceae (49%), Bacillariophyceae (30%) and Chlorophyceae (21%). The microalgae order wise composition showed cyanophyceae family Chroococcales (42%) followed by Oscilltoriales (29%), Nostocales (21%) and Synechococals (8%) in Thanjavur. The microalgae order wise composition Chlorophyceae family showed Sphaerpleales (50%) followed by Desmidiales (30%) and Chlorellales (20%). The microalgae order wise composition consisted of the Bacillariophyceae family Thanjavur showed Naviculales (32%), Cymbellales (27%), Bacillariales (23%), Thalassiosirales (9%), Biddulphiales (5%) and Striatellales

(4%). Cyanophyceae showed ranked with species composition maximum percentage (29%) was found with *Oscillatoria* sp. this was followed by *Nostoc* sp. (19%), *Microcystis* (14%), *Chroococcus* sp.(10%), *Gloecapsa* sp. (14%), *Merismopedia* (9%) and *Anabaena* sp. (5%). Bacillariophyceae ranked second with maximum percentage of *Navicula* sp. (27%), *Cymbella* sp. (18%), *Gomphonema* sp. (9%), *Nitzschia* sp. (23%), *Gyrosigma* sp. (5%) and *Grammatophora* sp. (6%) *Amphora* sp. (5%), *Trigonium* sp. (5%) and *Cyclotella* sp. (4%). Chlorophyceae ranked third with maximum percentage of *Cosmarium* sp. (22%), *Chlorella* sp. (23%), *Selenastrum* sp. (22%), *Ankistrodesmus* sp. (11%), *Closterium* sp. (11%) and *Coelstrum* sp. (11%).

The microalgae family wise composition showed in Karaikudi Cyanophyceae (46%), Bacillariophyceae (38%) and Chlorophyceae (16%). Order wise abundance dominantly occurs Chroococcales (38%) followed by Nostocales (35) Oscillatoriales (24%) and Synechococcales (4%). Sphaerpleales (42%) followed by Desmidiiales (33%) and Chlorellales (25%). The Bacillariophyceae family order wise showed Navculales (36%), Cymbellales (32%), Bacillariales (11%), Thalassiosirales (7%), Striatellales (7%), Achnanthes (4%) and Licmophorales (3%). Cyanophyceae showed ranked with species composition consisted of maximum percentage *Nostoc* sp. (20%) was found with this was followed by *Oscillatoria* sp. (17%), *Lyngbya* sp. (17%), *Microcystis* sp. (13%), *Chroococcus* sp. (10%), *Anabaena* sp.(4%), *Arthospira* sp.(3%), *Gloecapsa* sp. (3%), *Aphanocapsa* sp. (3%) and *Merismopedia* sp.(3%). Bacillariophyceae ranked second with maximum percentage contribution of (25%) was found with *Navicula* sp. this was followed by *Cymbella* sp.(18%), *Gomphonema* sp. (17%), *Nitzschia* sp. (11%), *Gyrosigma* sp. (7%), *Trachyneis* sp. (4%), *Licmophora* sp. (4%), *Cocconeis* sp. (4%), *Pinnularia* sp. (4%) *Cyclotella* sp. (3%) *Amphora* sp. (3%) and *Mastogloia* sp. (3%). Chlorophyceae ranked third with maximum percentage contribution of *Chlorella* sp. (28%), *Cosmarium* sp. (18%), *Selenastrum* sp. (18%), *Scenedesmus* sp. (18%), *Closterium* sp. (18%). The microalgae family wise composition in Tiruchirappalli consisted Cyanophyceae (57%), Bacillariophyceae (28%) and Chlorophyceae (15%). Orderwise composition of Chroococcales (38%) followed by Nostocales (33%), Oscillatoriales (24%) and Snechococcales (5%). Desmidiiales (50%) followed by Sphaerpleales (25%) and Chlorellales (25%). The microalgae order wise composition consisted of the Bacillariophyceae family Tiruchirappalli showed Navculales (22%), Cymbellales (36%), Striatellales (14%), Thalassiosirales (14%), Bacillariales (7%) and Fragilariales (7%). In Tiruchirappalli Cyanophyceae showed ranked with species composition consisted of maximum percentage *Chroococcus* sp. (15%) was found and this followed by *Anabaena* sp.(15%), *Calothrix* sp. (15%), *Lyngbya* sp. (10%), *Nostoc* sp. (10%), *Microcystis* sp. (10%), *Arthospira* sp.(5%), *Gloecapsa* sp. (5%), *Aphanocapsa* sp. (5%),

*Oscillatoria* sp. (5%) and *Merismopedia* sp.(5%). Bacillariophyceae ranked second with the maximum percentage contribution of 20% of was found *Cymbella* sp. and this was followed by *Gomphonema* sp. (13%), *Navicula* sp. (13%), *Cyclotella* sp. (6%), *Anomoeoneis* sp. (7%), *Amphora* sp. (7%), *Syndra* sp. (7%), *Gyrosigma* sp. (7%), *Grammatophora* sp. (7%) and *Nitzschia* sp. (6%). Chlorophyceae ranked third with the maximum percentage contribution of 25% was found *Cosmarium* sp., *Closterium* sp. (25%), and *Chlorella* sp. (25%) this was followed by *Scenedesmus* sp. (13%) *Pediastrum* sp. (12%).

The present study brings out that the members of the order Chroococcales were in abundance at all sampling location. The maximum percentage of Chroococcales has been recorded from Thanjavur (42%), whereas minimum recorded from Karaikudi and Tiruchirappalli (38%). The members of Nostocales were at the second position in respect of abundance. Karaikudi has (35%) of order Nostocales, which was the highest number of Nostocales recorded from the area, as against this, Tiruchirappalli (33%) and Thanjavur (29%) members. The members of Oscillatoriales are at the third position in respect of abundance. The maximum percentage of Oscillatoriales has been recorded from Thanjore (32%) whereas minimum from Karaikudi (29%). Karaikudi and Tiruchirappalli showed (24%) and (24%) respectively. The members of Snechococcales are at fourth position in respect of abundance. The maximum percentage of Snechococcales has been recorded from Thanjavur (8%) and this was followed by Tiruchirappalli and Karikudi showed (5%) and (4%). No members of order Pleurocapsales have been recorded from any sampling location. It is clear from the above discussion that the members of Chroococcales were in abundance. Chroococcales is followed by Nostocales on the basis of number of the species. The light and temperature conditions have a direct effect on the population dynamics of microalgal flora. Bright light favors the growth the members of Chroococcales, whereas, dim light enhance the presence of the members of Nostocales. Similarly, a moderate temperature between 20-40C was found suitable for the luxurious growth of Cyanobacterial taxa [28]. Species composition was significantly influenced by location, particularly for the orders Chroococcales and Nostocales. Chroococcales may have increased with location because, as unicellular organisms with rapid growth [29] they do not require a stable substrate with a fine texture and high organic matter content. In contrast, Oscillatoriales decrease the population. Nostocales are usually thought to be able to colonize young undeveloped soil because of their ability to fix nitrogen [9] which may be the limiting nutrient in this type of soil. Perhaps *Nostoc* was better adapted than many other phototrophs to cryoturbation and desiccation because it has well developed mucilaginous sheath, which protects against the cold and desiccation.

**Table 1:** Diversity of cyanobacteria from the four sampling locations

	<b>Microalgae isolates</b>	<b>S1</b>	<b>S2</b>	<b>S3</b>
1.	<i>Anabaena circinalis</i> var. <i>crassa</i> ghose	-	++	+
2.	<i>Anabaena naviculoides</i> (Fritsch)	-	-	+
3.	<i>Anabaena iyengarii</i> (Bharadwaja)	+	-	-
4.	<i>Aphanocapsa banarensensis</i> (C.Nageli)	-	+	-
5.	<i>Aphanocapsa litoralis</i> (Hansgring)	-	+	+
6.	<i>Aphanothece elachista</i> (G.S. West)	-	+	-
7.	<i>Arthrospira khannae</i> (Drought & Strickland)	-	+	+
8.	<i>Spirulina subsala</i> Gomont	-	+	+
9.	<i>Arthrospira spirulinoides</i> R. N. Singh	-	-	+
10.	<i>Calothrix parietina</i> (Thuret ex Bornet & Flahault)	-	+	+
11.	<i>Calothrix epiphytica</i> West& G.S. West	-	+	+
12.	<i>Calothrix Wembraensis</i> (Lemmermann)	-	-	+
13.	<i>Chroococcus limneticus</i> Lemmermann	-	+	-
14.	<i>Chroococcus minor</i> (Kutz.) Nag.	+	+	+
15.	<i>Chroococcus minutus</i> (Kutz.) Nag.	+	+	+
16.	<i>Chroococcus turgidus</i> (Kutz.) Nag.	-	-	+
17.	<i>Gloeocapsa compacta</i> (Kutz.)	+	-	-
18.	<i>Gloeocapsa crepidinum</i> (Thuret)	+	-	-
19.	<i>Gloeocapsa magna</i> (Kutz.)	+	+	+
20.	<i>Gomphosphaeria aponina</i> Kutz.	+	+	+
21.	<i>Lyngbya limnetica</i> (Lemmermann)	-	+	-
22.	<i>Lyngbya lutea</i> (Gomont)	-	+	-
23.	<i>Merismopedia glauca</i> Kutz.	-	-	+
24.	<i>Merismopedia punctata</i> Meyen	+	-	-
25.	<i>Merismopedia tenuissima</i> Lemmermann	+	+	-
26.	<i>Microcystis aeruginosa</i> (Kutz)	+	+	+
27.	<i>Microcystis flosaquae</i> Kichner	+	+	+
28.	<i>Microcystis robusta</i> Nygaard	-	+	-
29.	<i>Microcystis viridis</i> Lemmermann	+	+	-
30.	<i>Nostoc calcicola</i> Brebisson ex Bornet & Flahault	+	+	-
31.	<i>Nostoc commune</i> Vacher ex Born.et Flah.	+	++	-
32.	<i>Nostoc ellipsosporum</i> Robenhorst ex Bornet & Flahault	+	+	+
33.	<i>Nostoc hatei</i> S.C. Dixit	-	-	+
34.	<i>Nostoc muscorum</i> Ag.ex Born. et Flah.	+	+	-
35.	<i>Nostoc piscinale</i> Kutz.	-	+	-
36.	<i>Nostoc spongiaeforme</i> C.Agardh	-	+	-
37.	<i>Oscillatoria perornata</i> Skuja	-	+	-
38.	<i>Oscillatoria subbrevis</i> Schmidle	+	-	-
39.	<i>Oscillatoria claricentrosa</i> C.B. Rao	+	-	-
40.	<i>Oscillatoria princeps</i> Gomont	+	+	+
41.	<i>Oscillatoria boryana</i> Gomont	-	+	-
42.	<i>Oscillatoria chalybea</i> Gomont	+	+	-
43.	<i>Oscillatoria rubescens</i> Gomont	+	+	-
44.	<i>Oscillatoria pseudogeminata</i> G. Schmid	+	+	-
45.	<i>Ankistrodesmus convolutus</i> Corda	+	+	-
46.	<i>Chlorella conductrix</i> K. Brandt	+	+	+
47.	<i>Chlorella parasitica</i> K. Brandt	-	+	-
48.	<i>Chlorella vulgaris</i> Beyerinck	+	+	+
49.	<i>Closterium costatum</i> Ralfs	+	+	+
50.	<i>Closterium</i> sp Nageli	-	-	+
51.	<i>Coelastrum microporum</i> Nageli	+	-	-
52.	<i>Cosmarium cyclicum</i> P.Lundell	+	+	+
53.	<i>Cosmarium pseudopyramidatum</i> Lundell	+	+	-
54.	<i>Pediastrum</i> sp.Meyen	+	-	+
55.	<i>Selenastrum gracile</i> Reinsch	+	+	-
56.	<i>Selenastrum</i> sp.	+	+	-
57.	<i>Scenedesmus obliquus</i> Kutz.	-	+	-
58.	<i>Scenedesmus maximum</i> Kutz	-	+	-
59.	<i>Scenedesmus biaudatus</i> Kutz	-	-	+
60.	<i>Amphora ovalis</i> Kutz.	+	+	+
61.	<i>Anomoeoneis sphaerophora</i> Ehernberg	-	-	+
62.	<i>Caloneis silicula</i> Ehernberg	-	-	+
63.	<i>Cocconeis placentula</i> Ehernberg	-	+	-
64.	<i>Cyclotella meneghiniana</i> Kutz	-	+	+
65.	<i>Cymbella ventricosa</i> C. Agardh	-	+	+

66.	<i>Cymbella aspera</i> Ehernberg	+	+	-
67.	<i>Cymbella cesatii</i> Grunow	+	-	+
68.	<i>Cymbella cymbiformis</i> C. Agardh	+	+	+
69.	<i>Cymbella ehrenbergii</i> Kutz.	-	+	-
70.	<i>Cymbella microcephala</i> Grunow	+	+	-
71.	<i>Gomphonema constrictum</i> Ehernberg	-	+	-
72.	<i>Gomphonema montanum</i> Grunow	+	+	+
73.	<i>Gomphonema parvulum</i> Kutz.	-	+	+
74.	<i>Gomphonema subtile</i> Ehernberg	+	+	-
75.	<i>Grammatophora oceanicai</i> Ehernberg	+	-	+
76.	<i>Gyrosigma acuminatum</i> Kutz.	+	++	+
77.	<i>Gyrosigma balticum</i> Ehernberg	-	+	-
78.	<i>Licmophora abbreviate</i> C. Agardh	-	+	-
79.	<i>Mastogloia smithii</i> W.Smith	-	+	-
80.	<i>Pinnularia interrupta</i> W.Smith	-	+	-
81.	<i>Navicula cryptocephala</i> Ehernberg	-	+	-
82.	<i>Navicula detenta</i> Hustedt	-	+	-
83.	<i>Navicula mutica</i> Kutz.	+	++	-
84.	<i>Navicula pupula</i> Kutz.	-	+	-
85.	<i>Navicula recta</i> J.Brun &Heribaud	+	+	-
86.	<i>Navicula rhynchocephala</i> Kutz.	+	-	+
87.	<i>Nitzschia acicularis</i> Kutz.	+	-	-
88.	<i>Nitzschia Longissim</i> Ralfs	-	+	-
89.	<i>Nitzschia amphibian</i> Gronow	-	+	-
90.	<i>Nitzschia insignis</i> Gronow	-	-	+
91.	<i>Nitzschia Palae (Kützing)</i> W.Smith	+	+++	-
92.	<i>Synedra splendens</i> Ehernberg	-	-	+
93.	<i>Trigonium arcticum</i> Cleve	+	-	-
94.	<i>Trachyneis aspera</i> Ehernberg	-	+	-

+++ Dominant, ++ Co dominant, + Rare, - absent

S1- Thanjavur, S2- Karaikudi and S3- Tiruchirappalli

### Physicochemical parameters for collected water samples

Water quality (Table 2) analysis revealed that the highest pH value of 8.13 was recorded at Thanjavur, the lowest 7.12 at karaikudi, and the pH value of 7.5 was recorded at Tiruchirappalli. The minimum concentration of calcium was recorded at Thanjavur the highest concentration was found 124mg/L at Tiruchirappalli whereas, the concentration of Karakudi showed 94mg/L of calcium. The lowest magnesium value of 22mg/L was recorded in

Tiruchirappalli and Thajavur showed the concentration of highest value at 84mg/L. Lowest percentage of diverse Bacillariophyceae and chlorophyceae were taken 10 and 9 respectively. The site indicate that this habitat suffered due to sewage from domestic area and hence lost the sensitive species which created a niche that becomes available to more tolerant species (Pandey et.al., 2000). DO and nitrate supports the growth of Chlorophyceae and Bacillariophyceae.

**Table 2:** Physicochemical parameters for collected water samples

S. No.	Physioparameter	Thanjavur	Karaikudi	Tiruchirappalli
1.	pH	8.13	7.12	7.5
2.	Temperature °C	32	31	33
3.	Carbonate(mg/l)	82.4±3.2	40.8±2.4	54.3±1.8
4.	Bicarbonate(mg/l)	179±4.8	248.6±3.8	138.3±7.2
5.	Chloride(mg/l)	485±2.7	347±5.2	194±7.5
6.	Calcium(mg/l)	78.6±4.2	94.7±3.1	124±2.1
7.	Magnesium(mg/l)	84±1.6	46±4.5	22±2.4
8.	Total Phosphrous	1.2±0.4	1.8±0.6	2.2±0.8
9.	Inorganic Phosphate(mg/l)	3.4±0.7	2.6±0.3	1.8±0.5
10.	Sulphate(mg/l)	24.7±2.7	18.4±2.1	13.7±1.8
11.	sulphide(mg/l)	13.4±1.3	18.7±2.2	8.7±3.2
12.	Ammonia(mg/l)	2.7±0.4	1.9±0.6	1.4±0.3
13.	Nitrate(mg/l)	42.8±3.4	36.7±2.1	28.7±1.8
14.	Nitrite(mg/l)	4.8±0.8	6.7±1.1	9.4±1.4

### Statistical analysis

Correlation between microalgae abundance and physico-chemical parameters: Correlation co efficient matrix is calculated among 14 physico –chemical parameters (Table 3). The positive correlation microalgae with pH,

Temperature, Carbonate. Negative correlation of microalgae with bicarbonate, nitrate, nitrite, ammonia, sulphate, sulphide, phosphate, inorganic phosphate, magnesium, calcium and chloride.

**Table 3:** Correlation matrix between physiochemical parameter and occurrence of the algal species

	Correlations															
	pH	Temp	Carbonate	Bicarbonate	Cl	Ca	Mg	PO <sub>4</sub>	inorganicphos	SO <sub>4</sub>	SO <sub>2</sub>	NH <sub>3</sub>	NO <sub>3</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	TAS	
pH	1															
Temp	.372	1														
Carbonate	.998*	.318	1													
Bicarbonate	-.503	-.989	-.453	1												
Cl	.594	-.526	.639	.396	1											
Ca	-.477	.638	-.527	-.519	-.990	1										
Mg	.714	-.384	.753	.246	.987	-.956	1									
PO <sub>4</sub>	-.704	.397	-.744	-.260	-.990	.960	-1.000*	1								
Inorganic phos	.617	-.500	.662	.369	1.000*	-.986	.992	-.993	1							
SO <sub>4</sub>	.681	-.426	.722	.290	.994	-.968	.999*	-1.000*	.996	1						
SO <sub>2</sub>	-.404	-.999*	-.351	.994	.496	-.611	.352	-.365	.470	.394	1					
NH <sub>3</sub>	.716	-.381	.755	.243	.987	-.955	1.000*	-1.000*	.991	.999*	.349	1				
NO <sub>3</sub>	.555	-.566	.602	.440	.999*	-.996	.979	-.982	.997*	.987	.537	.978	1			
NO <sub>2</sub>	-.536	.584	-.584	-.460	-.998*	.998*	-.974	.977	-.995	-.983	-.556	-.973	-1.000*	1		
TAS	-.918	-.711	-.893	.805	-.225	.088	-.377	.363	-.254	-.334	.735	-.379	-.178	.156	1	

\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed). \*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed). Temp-Temperature, Cl-Chloride, Ca-calcium, Mg-Magnesium, PO<sub>4</sub>- Phosphate, SO<sub>4</sub>- Sulphate, SO<sub>2</sub>- Sulphide, NH<sub>3</sub>- Ammonia, NO<sub>3</sub>- Nitrate, NO<sub>2</sub>- Nitrite, TAS- Total algal species

## Conclusion

The diversity of microalgae in India are still very fragmentary, especially in the moist soil and pond water. In this study, cyanobacteria with detailed microscopic analysis were reported from different Tiruchirappalli, Thanjavur and Karaikudi locations of Tamil Nadu. The study contributed an understanding to enormous algal diversity freshwater habitat. Thus, the study permits the need for continuous assessment of the phytoplankton composition and the physicochemical variables influencing them for betterment of upcoming microalgal applications.

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## Conflict of interest statement

We declare that we have no conflict of interest

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