



Commercial Potential Of Artemia Species in Lonar Crater Lake, India.

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Abstract:

Artemia salina is a crustacean that occur in hyper saline water of the salinity 35% to 160%, hence it is commonly known as brine shrimp. It grows 10 to 15 mm and attains maturity in 12 to 15 days and reproduces parthenogenetically, thus, known for prodigality of higher population. The mature female produce up to 300 cysts that hatch out in brine every four days. *Artemia* can be exploited for aquaculture with sustainability. Potential yield of *Artemia* cysts per hectare is about 30 to 35 kg. In India, MPE-DA-RGCA produces 500 kg *Artemia* over 18 hectares. In 1984, *Artemia* cyst sources (USA & Canada) produced a world cyst supply of 30 to 50 metric tons yr⁻¹. India at present imports 300 tonnes of dried cysts of *Artemia* from China and USA. Sea food through aquaculture may be double if *Artemia* is used as live feed. This resource is expected to grow at its maximum exploitation in the forthcoming years either through natural sources or sites where it could be introduced artificially.

Lonar lake (19°58'N & 76°31'E) is a salt lake formed due to impact of meteor around 50000 year back. The brine in lake proper occupied the area of 107 hectare. The lake microbial fauna and flora constitutes salt tolerant Rotifers and blue green algae.

The water quality of Lonar lake is suitable for the culture of better quality *Artemia* as it provides suitable environment and abundant feed of *Spirulina* algae. In present study Lonar saline water is brought to the laboratory to



study adaptability of *Artemia* so that it can be inoculated and potential yield of Lonar lake with respect to *Artemia* cyst production will be discussed.

Biography:

Dr. D. S. Dabhade has completed his Ph.D. at the age of 45 years from SGBA University, Amravati. He is Professor in Zoology at R. A. College, Washim, affiliated to SGBAU, Amravati. He is the member of Academic Council of university. He has published more than 65 papers in reputed journals. He is research supervisor and 7 researchers are awarded Ph. D. under his supervision.

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