

# Changes in structure of zooplankton communities in the Daugava River and Pļaviņas Reservoir

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**Abstract.** In general 26 taxa of Rotifera, 8 taxa Cladocera and 3 taxa Copepoda group were found in the Daugava River in sampling site- Jēkabpils in 2019, but 25 taxa of Rotifera, 6 taxa Cladocera and 2 taxa Copepoda group were found in the Daugava River in sampling site- Veczelīki in 2019. In contrast, 26 taxa of Rotifera, 7 taxa Cladocera and 1 taxon Copepoda group were found in the Daugava River in sampling site- Jēkabpils in 2020, and 23 taxa of Rotifera, 1 taxa Cladocera group were found in the Daugava River in sampling site- Veczelīki in 2020. 28 taxa of Rotifera, 13 taxa Cladocera and 4 taxon Copepoda group were found in the Pļaviņas Reservoir (sampling site- Gostiņi) in 2019, and 25 taxa of Rotifera, 7 taxa Cladocera group and 2 taxon Copepoda group were found in 2020. In the Daugava River in sampling site- Jēkabpils and Veczelīki the highest percentage of Rotifera taxa were *Synchaeta* sp., *Keratella cochlearis*, *Brachionus calyciflorus*, *Brachionus quadridentatus*, *Euchlanis* sp., *Polyarthra* sp., which were typical species of the Daugava. Cladocera and Copepoda compared with Rotifera have very small percentage of representatives. Rotifera taxa of Pļaviņas Reservoir the highest percentage are *Synchaeta* sp., *Brachionus calyciflorus*, *Keratella cochlearis*, *Keratella quadrata*, *Polyarthra* sp. and *Asplanchna priodonta*. From Cladocera here were found typical of lake zooplankton taxa i.e *Bosmina longirostris*, *Chydorus ovalis*, *Diaphanosoma brachyurum*, *Ceriodaphnia* sp. Water temperature in the upper layer of the Daugava River and of the Pļaviņas Reservoir were 22 0C, the dissolved oxygen content 12 mg/l and chlorophyll a concentration 4 µg/l.

**Keywords:** Daugava River, Pļaviņas Reservoir, zooplankton groups, Rotifera, Cladocera, Copepoda, water physico-chemical measurements

## I. INTRODUCTION

Zooplankton include diverse microscopic taxa, such as Rotifera, Copepoda, and Cladocera are very sensitive to

environmental changes and, hence, are considered good indicators of ecosystems [1]-[2]. A change in the physical-chemical and biotic parameters in aquatic systems resulted in a change in the relative composition and abundance of organisms thriving in the water. Many species of zooplankton, by filtering food, reduce the effects of eutrophication of the water body, because they control the amount of bacteria and algae by participating in the process of biological self-purification of water. Zooplankton are primary production consumers in waterbodies and one of indicators of waterbodies productivity as they serve as food for many fish, so the organisms are bioindicators, which show water quality [3]-[9]. In general zooplankton is a dynamic system in which the composition of species may significantly change during the season. Numerous abiotic (e.g. temperature, salinity, stratification, pollution) and biotic factors (eg., food, predation, competition) affect temporal changes in the composition of zooplankton species of the temperate climate zones [3]-[6], [8]-[25]. It is really necessary to perform long-term systematic observations for receiving true structure of the ecosystem and for evaluating its natural variation scene ecosystem. The exact and frequent plankton quantitative determination is a prerequisite for accurate evaluation of productivity in rivers and other waterbodies. It is therefore important to carry out such studies in order to check the current composition of zooplankton species at Pļaviņas Reservoir in the Daugava River and in Pļaviņas Reservoir. Qualitative and quantitative variations of zooplankton help to make conclusions about changes in environmental factors and their impact on living organisms.

The obtained data and further long-term research are significant because the conditions of waterbodies which

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affect zooplankton are very diverse and changeable, as a result the data may vary significantly from year to year, so in order to make fundamental conclusions, long-term studies are required.

## II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### A. The study area and sampling

Daugava is one of the largest rivers in Eastern European. Daugava is 1005 km long with 87 900 km<sup>2</sup> large catchment area. It is one of the ten largest rivers in the Baltic Sea basin [26]. The Pļaviņas Reservoir is the largest reservoir in Latvia by volume, it is 509.5 million m<sup>3</sup>. The area is 35 km<sup>2</sup>, the average depth – 14.5 m, the maximum depth – 47 m. The length is 45 km, the maximal width about 2 km, which the minimal is 1 km [27] (Fig. 1).

The study summarizes the data collected during the research of seasonal studies 2019 (June – September) and 2020 (April – September). Zooplankton samples were collected and analysis according to standard method was made [28]-[29]. Zooplankton samples were taken in the three sampling sites: in the River Daugava upstream Pļaviņas Reservoir (sampling sites- Jēkabpils and Veczeļķi) and in the area of Pļaviņas Reservoir (sampling site- Gostinī). The zooplankton samples were collected using Apstein type plankton net (65 μm), through which 100 liters of water were filtered from the water surface layer (0.5 - 1m depth) (Fig. 1).

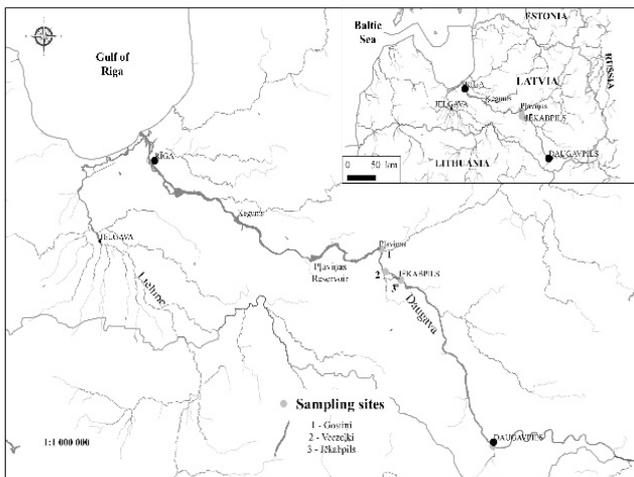


Fig. 1. Location of the sampling area.

### B. Physical–Chemical analysis

Along with zooplankton sampling water physico-chemical parameters (water temperature (°C), dissolved oxygen (mg<sup>-1</sup>) and chlorophyll  $\alpha$  (μg<sup>-1</sup>) were also carried out) which were determined at each site of waterbed using a YSI Pro Plus Multi-Parameter Water Quality Meter probe.

### C. Zooplankton analysis

The collection of zooplankton samples and their quantitative and qualitative analysis was performed in accordance with the American Public Health Association (APHA) Standard method procedures for the water and wastewater analysis [28]-[29]. The quantitative estimation of the zooplankton was performed using a Sedgewick-Rafter chamber. A 1 ml sample was poured

on a Sedgewick-Rafter cell, in total 6 ml sample's subvolume examined (1 ml x 6) from each sample [29]. The samples of zooplankton were analysed by using Zeiss Primo Star upright light microscope (100 - 400 x magnification). Having studied the samples in the light microscope the zooplankton organisms were then calculated and identified as species or families. The zooplankton identification was carried out according to the methods described in the zooplankton guides in [30]-[53].

The following formula was used to calculate the number of organisms in a sample:

$$N = (a \times b \times 1000) / (c \times d) / 1000 \quad (1)$$

where  $a$  - is a calculated number of organisms (average);  
 $b$  - is a volume of concentrated sample;  
 $c$  - is a sample volume;  
 $d$  - is a volume of filtered water;  
 $N$  - is a number of organisms per 1 l (litre).

### D. Statistical analysis

The Shannon-Wiener function ( $H'$ ) was used to calculate as [54]:

$$H' = - \sum_{i=1}^S (p_i)(\ln p_i) \quad (2)$$

where  $H'$  - is the index of species diversity,  
 $S$  - is the number of species, and  
 $p_i$  - is a proportion of the total sample belonging to  $i$  th species.

Since the resulting equation is a measure of bits, we used the following equation to move from the bits unit to the species unit [55]-[56]:

$$N_1 = e^{H'} \quad (3)$$

where  $e$  is equal to 2.71828 (base of natural logs),  
 $H'$  - Shannon-Wiener function (calculated with base  $e$  logs), and  
 $N_1$  - the number of equally common species that would produce the same diversity as  $H'$ .

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In general 26 taxa of Rotifera, 8 taxa Cladocera and 3 taxa Copepoda group were found in the Daugava River in sampling site- Jēkabpils in 2019, but 25 taxa of Rotifera, 6 taxa Cladocera and 2 taxa Copepoda group were found in the Daugava River in sampling site- Veczeļķi in 2019 (Table 1, Fig. 2).

TABLE 1 DIVERSITY OF ZOOPLANKTON TAXA IN ALL SAMPLING SITES IN 2019

Species (taxa)	Gostiņi	Jēkabpils	Veczelķi	Species common to all places
<b>ROTIFERA</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>
<i>Asplanchna priodonta</i> Gosse, 1850	+			
<i>Brachionus angularis</i> Gosse, 1851	+	+	+	+
<i>Brachionus calyciflorus</i> Pallas, 1766	+	+	+	+
<i>Brachionus quadridentatus</i> Hermann, 1783	+	+	+	+
<i>Cephalodella gibba</i> (Ehrenberg, 1832)	+		+	
<i>Conochilus</i> sp. Ehrenberg, 1834	+	+	+	+
<i>Dicranophorus</i> Nitzsch, 1827	+	+	+	+
<i>Euchlanis</i> sp. Ehrenberg, 1832	+		+	
<i>Filinia longiseta</i> (Ehrenberg, 1834)	+	+	+	+
<i>Gastropus stylifer</i> (Imhof, 1891)	+	+	+	+
<i>Keratella cochlearis</i> (Gosse, 1851)	+	+	+	+
<i>Keratella quadrata</i> (Müller, 1786)	+	+	+	+
<i>Laciniaria</i> sp. Schweigger, 1820	+		+	
<i>Lecane flexilis</i> (Gosse, 1886)	+		+	
<i>Lecane luna</i> (Müller, 1776)	+	+	+	+
<i>Lecane lunaris</i> (Ehrenberg, 1832)	+	+	+	+
<i>Lepadella</i> sp. Bory de St. Vincent, 1826		+		
<i>Mytilina mucronata</i> (Müller, 1776)	+	+	+	+
<i>Notholca acuminata</i> (Ehrenberg, 1832)	+			
<i>Polyarthra</i> sp. Ehrenberg, 1834		+	+	
<i>Proales</i> sp. Gosse, 1886		+		
<i>Rotifera</i> sp. (Pallas, 1766)	+	+	+	+
<i>Synchaeta</i> sp. Ehrenberg, 1832	+	+	+	+
<i>Taphrocampa selenura</i> (Gosse, 1887)	+	+	+	+
<i>Testudinella patina</i> (Hermann, 1783)	+	+	+	+
<i>Trichocerca capucina</i> (Wierzejski & Zacharias, 1893)		+		
<i>Trichocerca cylindrica</i> (Imhof, 1891)		+	+	
<i>Trichocerca longiseta</i> (Schrank, 1802)	+			
<i>Trichocerca porcellus</i> (Gosse, 1851)	+	+		
<i>Trichocerca pusilla</i> (Jennings, 1903)		+		
<i>Trichocerca rousseleti</i> (Voigt, 1902)	+			

Species (taxa)	Gostiņi	Jēkabpils	Veczelķi	Species common to all places
<i>Trichocerca similis</i> (Wierzejski, 1893)	+	+	+	+
<i>Trichotria pocillum</i> (Müller, 1776)	+	+	+	+
<b>CLADOCERA</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>
<i>Acroperus harpae</i> (Baird, 1835)	+	+	+	+
<i>Bosmina (Bosmina) longirostris</i> (O. F. Müller, 1776)	+	+	+	+
<i>Ceriodaphnia</i> sp. Dana, 1853	+	+	+	+
<i>Chydorus ovalis</i> (Kurz, 1875)	+	+	+	+
<i>Chydorus sphaericus</i> (O. F. Müller, 1776)	+			
<i>Daphnia</i> sp. (O. F. Müller, 1785)	+			
<i>Diaphanosoma brachyurum</i> (Liévin, 1848)	+	+	+	+
<i>Eurycerus (Eurycerus) lamellatus</i> (O. F. Müller, 1776)	+			
<i>Kurzia latissima</i> (Kurz, 1875)	+		+	
<i>Pleuroxus (Peracantha) truncatus</i> (O. F. Müller, 1785)	+	+		
<i>Polyphemus pediculus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	+			
<i>Scapholeberis mucronata</i> (O. F. Müller, 1776)	+	+		
<i>Sida crystallina</i> (O. F. Müller, 1776)	+	+		
<b>COPEPODA</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Acanthocyclops</i> sp. Kiefer, 1927	+	+		
<i>Macrocyclus</i> sp. Claus, 1893	+			
<i>Cyclops</i> sp. Müller, 1785	+	+	+	+
<i>Eucyclops</i> sp. Claus, 1893	+	+		
<i>Eudiaptomus</i> sp. Kiefer, 1932			+	
Copepodite cyclopoid	+	+	+	+
Nauplii	+	+	+	+
<b>Total taxa</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>25</b>

In contrast, 26 taxa of Rotifera, 7 taxa Cladocera and 1 taxon Copepoda group were found in the Daugava River in sampling site- Jēkabpils in 2020, and 23 taxa of Rotifera, 1 taxa Cladocera group were found in the Daugava River in sampling site- Veczelķi in 2020 (Table 2, Fig.3). There were only subadult specimens - nauplii and Copepodite from Copepoda group.

TABLE 2 DIVERSITY OF ZOOPLANKTON TAXA IN ALL SAMPLING SITES IN 2020

Species (taxa)	Gostiņi	Jēkabpils	Veczeļķi	Species common to all places
<b>ROTIFERA</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>
<i>Asplanchna priodonta</i> Gosse, 1850	+			
<i>Brachionus angularis</i> Gosse, 1851	+	+	+	+
<i>Brachionus calyciflorus</i> Pallas, 1766	+	+	+	+
<i>Brachionus quadridentatus</i> Hermann, 1783	+	+		
<i>Cephalodella gibba</i> (Ehrenberg, 1832)	+	+	+	+
<i>Conochilus</i> sp. Ehrenberg, 1834			+	
<i>Dicranophorus</i> sp. Nitzsch, 1827	+	+	+	+
<i>Euchlanis</i> sp. Ehrenberg, 1832	+	+	+	+
<i>Filinia longiseta</i> (Ehrenberg, 1834)			+	
<i>Kellicottia longispina</i> Kellicott, 1879	+	+	+	+
<i>Keratella cochlearis</i> (Gosse, 1851)	+	+	+	+
<i>Keratella quadrata</i> (Müller, 1786)		+	+	
<i>Laciniaria</i> sp. Schweigger, 1820		+		
<i>Lecane flexilis</i> (Gosse, 1886)	+	+		
<i>Lecane luna</i> (Müller, 1776)	+	+		
<i>Lecane lunaris</i> (Ehrenberg, 1832)	+	+		
<i>Lecane</i> sp. Nitzsch, 1827			+	
<i>Lepadella (Lepadella) ovalis</i> (Müller, 1786)	+	+	+	+
<i>Mytilina mucronata</i> (Müller, 1773)		+		
<i>Notholca acuminata</i> (Ehrenberg, 1832)	+	+	+	+
<i>Notholca squamula</i> (Müller, 1786)	+		+	
<i>Polyarthra</i> sp. Ehrenberg, 1834	+	+	+	+
<i>Pompholyx sulcata</i> Hudson, 1885	+	+	+	+
<i>Rotifera</i> sp. (Pallas, 1766)	+	+	+	+
<i>Synchaeta</i> sp. Ehrenberg, 1832	+	+	+	+
<i>Taphrocampa selenura</i> (Gosse, 1887)	+	+	+	+
<i>Testudinella patina</i> (Hermann, 1783)	+	+	+	+
<i>Trichocerca cylindrica</i> (Imhof, 1891)	+	+	+	+
<i>Trichocerca porcellus</i> (Gosse, 1851)	+	+	+	+
<i>Trichocerca similis</i> (Wierzejski, 1893)	+	+		
<i>Trichotria pocillum</i> (Müller, 1776)	+	+	+	

Species (taxa)	Gostiņi	Jēkabpils	Veczeļķi	Species common to all places
<b>CLADOCERA</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Acroperus harpae</i> (Baird, 1835)		+		
<i>Bosmina (Bosmina) longirostris</i> (O. F. Müller, 1776)	+	+		
<i>Ceriodaphnia</i> sp. Dana, 1853	+	+		
<i>Chydorus ovalis</i> (Kurz, 1875)	+	+	+	+
<i>Diaphanosoma brachyurum</i> (Liévin, 1848)	+			
<i>Kurzia latissima</i> (Kurz, 1875)	+	+		
<i>Pleuroxus (Peracantha) truncatus</i> (O. F. Müller, 1785)		+		
<i>Polyphemus pediculus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	+			
<i>Scapholeberis mucronata</i> (O. F. Müller, 1776)		+		
<i>Sida crystallina</i> (O. F. Müller, 1776)	+			
<b>COPEPODA</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<i>Acanthocyclops</i> sp. Kiefer, 1927	+	+		
Copepodite cyclopoid	+	+		
<i>Cyclops</i> sp. Müller, 1785	+			
Nauplii	+	+	+	+
<b>Total taxa</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>18</b>

28 taxa of Rotifera, 13 taxa Cladocera and 4 taxon Copepoda group were found in the Pļaviņas Reservoir (sampling site- Gostiņi) in 2019 (Table 1, Fig.4), and 25 taxa of Rotifera, 7 taxa Cladocera group and 2 taxon Copepoda group were found in 2020 (Table 2, Fig. 4).

Big zooplankton biodiversity in the Daugava River and in the Pļaviņas Reservoir is due to the Daugava large catchment area - 87,900 km<sup>2</sup> [57], which includes tributaries and the water system. When water level in the river changes the exchange of plankton fauna takes place between these water bodies. In the 60-ies of 20<sup>th</sup> century, Škute [58] carried out a research of 28 Daugava River tributaries and noted that the the upper reaches of the Daugava River tributaries have a significant effect on the Daugava zooplankton cenosis, zooplankton quantity even doubled in some of the tributaries of the river. Rotifera usually dominates in river plankton both qualitatively and quantitatively [59]-[68]. The results of our research show that the greatest diversity of zooplankton taxa is in Rotifera group both in the Daugava River and at the Pļaviņas Reservoir. The greatest diversity of zooplankton taxa was also established among Rotifera species that were found in the Daugava near Daugavpils [60]-[61], [68]. However, these authors in their studies mentioned that sometimes during the summer and autumn Cladocera group is also widely represented. In our case, taxa of Rotifera group were observed at the Pļaviņas Reservoir in July, however in September the number of taxa rapidly decreased, while many of Cladocera group taxa- *Acroperus harpae*, *Chydorus ovalis*, *Ceriodaphnia* sp., *Pleuroxus truncatus* taxa appeared in September.

However, taking into account that the weight of the majority of Cladocera and Copepoda representatives exceeds the weight of representatives of Rotifera group, it can be concluded in terms of biomass that all zooplankton groups in the Daugava are equally well represented. It should be noted that throughout all the stages of rivers and reservoir under research, the variation among zooplankton quantity is similar. Such variation is also determined by the influence of water body hydrological, hydrometeorological factors, for example water temperature °C, the dissolved oxygen content, chlorophyll  $\alpha$  concentration, where the thermal water regime and water level fluctuations are of particular importance, as well as overgrowth of the water body and the pollution degree.

The sections of the river where there are a lot of macrophyte in the coastal zone, macrophytes become the decisive factor for the formation of the river zooplankton [63], [69]. When compared quantitative and qualitative parameters of taxa (by Shannon-Wiener diversity) both in the Daugava before the Pļaviņas Reservoir and in the Pļaviņas Reservoir (Fig. 4). By contrast, there is no such a big diversity of taxa in the reservoir, but the dominance of certain taxa appears there, which is not typical of the river plankton. The number of the species does not only depend on the sampling time, habitat diversity, but also on the sampling frequency during the season and on the size of the water body [70]. Several authors in their researches [63], [71]-[73] noted the influence of fish on zooplankton cenosis, but the influence of fish is significant only in small rivers. The main influencing factors in large rivers that determine the number of zooplankton, in particular crustaceans, is the river hydrology and predators [63], [66], [69], [74]-[78].

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#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

From the study, it can be concluded that there are variations in the number and diversity of species in the samples collected in the Daugava River and in the Pļaviņas Reservoir. Zooplankton taxa in the Daugava River are typical of moving water bodies, but zooplankton in the Pļaviņas reservoir is more characteristic for stagnant water masses. A large diversity of the Rotifera taxa was found in the Daugava River and in the Pļaviņas reservoir, but no taxa dominated in the River, however in the Pļaviņas Reservoir the dominance of certain taxa was identified. The diversity of Cladocera taxa in the Daugava River is very low, whereas, in the Pļaviņas Reservoir this diversity is much bigger. The dominance of individual taxa was also observed among the Cladocera group. Mainly subadult copepodite of Copepoda group were identified both in the Daugava River and in the Pļaviņas Reservoir. The identified differences could be due to the fact that zooplankton species are very sensitive to various changes in environmental factors, such as weather conditions, change in each specific place vegetation, overgrow, depth and physico-chemical parameters of the properties as well as with biological characteristics of each species, such as seasonality.

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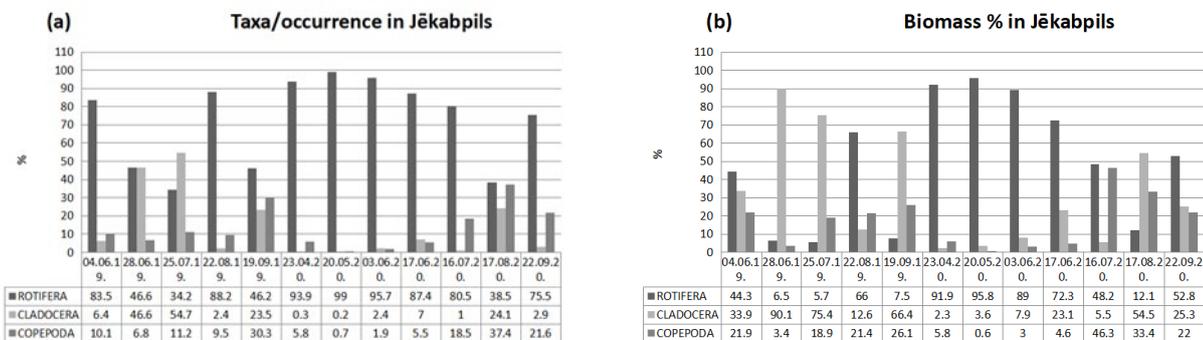


Fig.2. The percentage of taxa (a) and biomass (b) of the Rotifera, Cladocera & Copepoda groups in sampling site Jēkabpils.

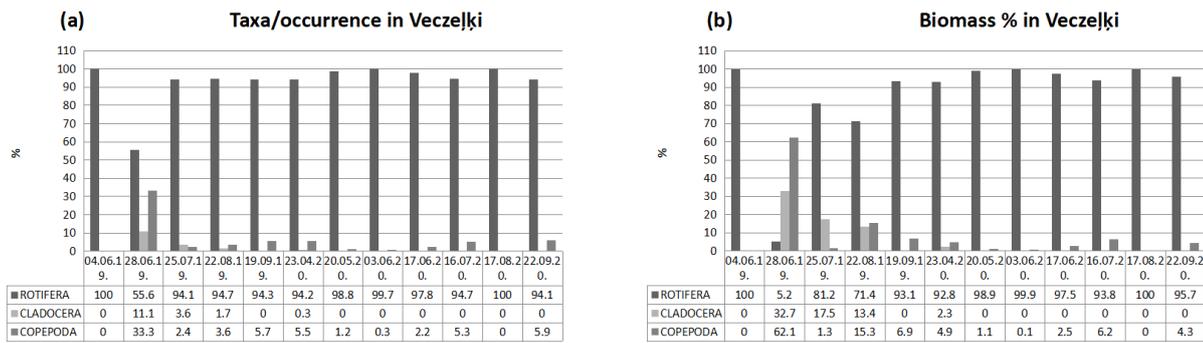


Fig. 3. The percentage of taxa (a) and biomass (b) of the Rotifera, Cladocera & Copepoda groups in sampling site Veczelķi.

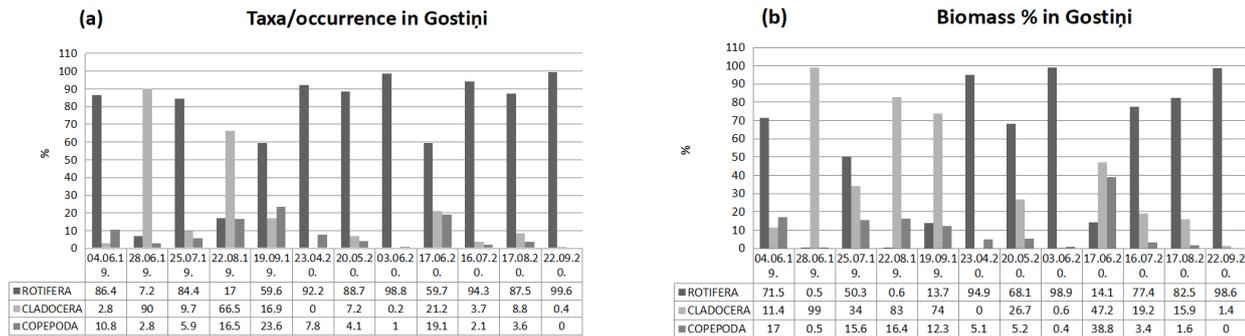


Fig. 4. The percentage of taxa (a) and biomass (b) of the Rotifera, Cladocera & Copepoda groups in sampling site Gostiņi.

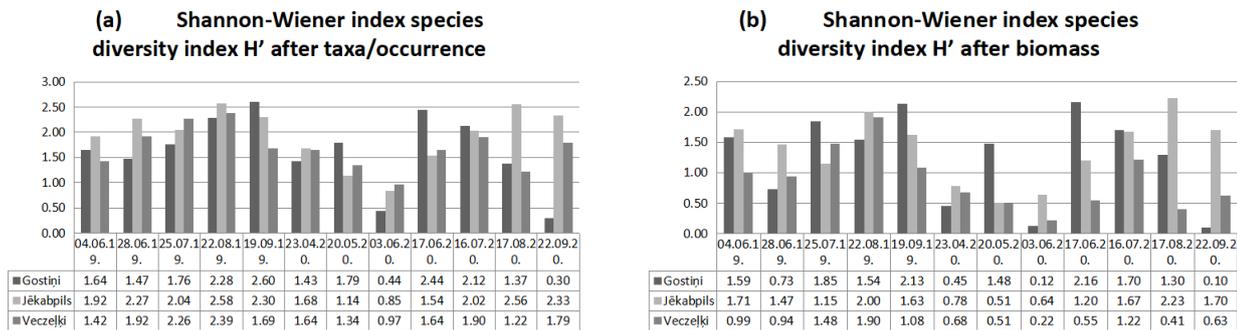


Fig. 5. Shannon-Wiener diversity index of taxa (a) and biomass (b) of the Rotifera, Cladocera & Copepoda groups in sampling sites Gostiņi, Jēkabpils and Veczelķi).

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