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# Zooplankton Diversity and Their Spatiotemporal Distribution: An Ecological Assessment from a Brackish Coastal Lagoon, Chilika, Odisha

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## Abstract

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Zooplankton constitutes a pivotal component in the pelagic food webs and serves as the major source of fish diet, thereby determining the productivity of coastal fisheries. Therefore, understanding zooplankton diversity and their ecology in coastal lagoon settings is a high priority research area. We examined the spatiotemporal distribution of zooplankton diversity (size >120  $\mu\text{m}$ ) in relation to environmental variables in Chilika lagoon. The sampling was conducted on the monthly frequency from July 2012 to June 2016 from 13 locations and