

Theme 3: Biodiversity – Terrestrial, Aquatic

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DENSITY AND DIVERSITY OF MOLLUSCS AT THREE DIFFERENT IRRIGATION RESERVOIRS OF CENTRAL GUJARAT

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Variations in the macrofaunal species composition and abundance in freshwater benthic habitats – are often related to soil chemistry. The aim of this study is to find out the relation between the density and diversity of Molluscs and soil chemistry at three irrigation reservoirs in the semi-arid zone of Central Gujarat. All of them are important wintering grounds for migratory as well as resident species of birds. For an egg laying species, calcium is an important component of food and many species are known to feed on molluscs to satisfy their calcium needs. The study was conducted from March 2010 to November 2010. Benthic samples were collected by Quadrat sampling. All together 5 taxa of mollusc were identified, of which *Bellamya benghalensis* dominated at the larger wetland with least anthropogenic pressure while *Lamellidens consobrinus* dominated the wetland with urban-rural gradient and *Indoplanorbis exustus* dominated the wetland with total agricultural matrices. The soil chemistry will be discussed.