

Theme 3: Biodiversity – Terrestrial, Aquatic

T3_Poster_17

VARIATIONS IN THE BUTTERFLY FAUNA AROUND THREE IRRIGATION RESERVOIRS IN THE SEMI ARID ZONE OF CENTRAL GUJRAT

Gandhi Nirjara, Patel Chandni and Padate Geeta

Department of Zoology, Faculty of Science, The M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara-390002, Gujarat, India.

Wetlands are the most diverse ecosystems, where the main focus is given to water birds. However, in this ecosystem, the invertebrates especially the insects form functionally important group. In present study an attempt has been made to document the butterfly fauna around three different irrigation reservoirs in the semi arid zone of Central Gujarat. All the three reservoirs are surrounded by different agricultural matrices and face different kinds of anthropogenic pressure. The Species Richness, Shannon Weiner Diversity index (H') and Evenness (E) and the Percentage abundance of the different butterfly families are assessed with seasonal differences. 46 species of butterflies belonging to 5 families of Order Lepidoptera were observed around the three reservoirs with 40 species noted around the Nationally Important Wetland, Wadhwana Irrigation Reservoir, whereas 31 around Jawla Irrigation Reservoir with rural surrounding and 26 around Timbi Irrigation reservoirs with rural-urban gradient. Around larger wetlands, majority of species were found. At the wetland under rural-urban gradient the species found showed the influence of modern urban vegetation. The influence of size of reservoir, agricultural matrix and human movements is discussed with the seasonal differences in the species composition and variation in their abundance.