

BACTERIAL FLORA IN THE ALIMENTARY TRACT OF *PLEUROPLOCA TRAPEZIUM* (LINNAEUS)

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ABSTRACT

Total aerobic heterotrophic bacterial flora (THB), amylolytic, proteolytic, and lipolytic activities were estimated monthly in the gut of *Pleuroploca trapezium*. The bacterial populations increased from the foregut to hind gut. Maximum number of THB was recorded in May (41×10^9 CFU/g) and the minimum in November (1.1×10^3 CFU/g). In general, bacterial populations were more abundant in summer months (April-June) and less so in monsoon months (October-December). The bacterial strains *Micrococcus*, *Bacillus*, *Pseudomonas*, *Vibrio*, *Corynebacterium*, Enterobacteriaceae, *Flavobacterium*, *Cytophaga*, *Aeromonas* and *Achromobacter* were commonly encountered. *Micrococcus* was the dominant group. The role of symbiotic bacteria in the digestion is discussed.