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**BENTHIC MACROFAUNA OF COLEROON ESTUARY,
SOUTHEAST COAST OF INDIA**

By J.K. Patterson Edward and K. Ayyakkannu
Annamalai University, Parangipettai - 608 502, Tamilnadu, India

ABSTRACT

The ecology of benthic fauna in the lower reaches of Coleroon estuary was studied for two consecutive years (1985-87) at two stations. High faunal density was associated with moderate salinity, high primary production and high organic carbon contents of the sediment. Low density or total depletion of macrobenthos was associated mainly with heavy river run-off and shifting of bottom sediment. The faunal density showed a declining trend in the estuary and it is attributed to the activities in the newly constructed fishing harbour.