

## MONTHLY VARIATIONS IN PHYSICO-CHEMICAL PARAMETERS OF WATER OF PROTECTED WETLAND, BAKHIRA LAKE, SANT KABIR NAGAR (UTTAR PRADESH), INDIA

A. K. PANDEY\* and PRAKASH CHANDRA

ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Canal Ring Road, Lucknow (U.P.)

**ABSTRACT :** Colour, odour, temperature, pH, salinity, dissolved oxygen (DO) and carbon-di-oxide (DCO<sub>2</sub>), biological oxygen demand (BOD), chemical oxygen demand (COD), conductivity, total dissolved solids (TDS), total solids (TS), dissolved solids (DS), suspended solids (SS), fixed solids (FS), volatile solids (VS), chloride, phosphate, sulphate, nitrate, total nitrogen (TN), fluoride as well as oil and grease contents of the protected Bakhira lake water were recorded during March,2013-February,2015. Temperature of lake water ranged between 20.1±0.2-34.8±0.5°C with minimum in January and maximum in June. pH of the lake water varied between 7.23±0.3-9.03±0.2, salinity 0.18-0.20 ppt with maximum value during March and July, dissolved oxygen (DO) fluctuated between 5.02±0.2-6.20±0.4 mg/l and dissolved carbon-di-oxide (DCO<sub>2</sub>) from 11.2±0.3 to 12.9±0.4 mg/l with low values during winter months. BOD of the lake water ranged between 6.5±2.4-12.4±2.4 mg/l and COD 17.6±4.1-57.7±4.06 mg/l. Conductivity of the water ranged between 212.6±4.6-371±7.2 µS/cm. TDS of the water ranged between 152.5±3.5-326.3±3.5 mg/l with the high values during June-October, TS 160.0±0.34-312.0±0.34 mg/l with high value in August whereas DS between 144.0±0.34-266.0±0.34 mg/l, the high values in June and August. SS in the lake water varied between 4.0±0.34-44.0±0.34 mg/l with the lowest value in May and highest in August, FS 104.0 (December)-252.0 mg/l (August) while VS 40.0 (December)-72.0 mg/l (January). Chloride content of the water ranged from 8.0±0.01 (May) to 19.0±0.01 mg/l (January), phosphate from <0.003±0.01 to 0.39±0.01 mg/l during the period with high values in May and low in January whereas sulphate from 2.90±0.09-16.2±0.09 mg/l. Nitrate content of the lake water ranged from <1.00±0.06-4.25±0.06 mg/l while total nitrogen between 3.04±0.09-10.08±0.09 mg/l. Fluoride content of the lake water ranged from 0.30±0.05 to 1.54±0.09 mg/l and oil and grease <2.5 (March) to 16.0 mg/ml (August). The present study demonstrates that the various physico-chemical parameters of the lake water are within the optimal range for fish life.

**Key words :** Physico-chemical parameters, Protected water body, Bakhira lake, Sant Kabir Nagar, India.

### INTRODUCTION

Bakhira lake (also known as Badhanch Tal or Moti Jheel) is the largest natural flood plain wetland of about 44 km (water spread area of 29 sq/km) of eastern Uttar Pradesh. It is located in district Sant Kabir Nagar (26°52'-26°56'N; 83°52'-85°5'E), about 54 km from Gorakhpur on Khalilabad-Mendawal road. Bakhira lake is a perennial water body which covers an area of 1,582.35 ha, however, it inundates about 1,296.64 ha more in monsoon season thus extending the total water area up to 2,878.99 ha. Field surveys conducted during March,2013-February,2015 revealed that this lake receives water through a number of nullahs like Ghaghara nullah, Nevas (26°52'36.4"N; 083°08'46.2"E), Baraka Ghaghra nullah, Govindpur (26°52'12.7"N; 083°09'05.8"E), Baraipar nullah (26°54'40.9"N; 083°05'39.3"E), Vandah nullah, Bakhira (26°55'41.9"N; 083°05'16.4"E) and Van Rakshak Chauki, Dhaurapar (26°56'36.7"N; 083°06'05.0"E) but the most important being the perennial Bahwa nullah (N26°56'15.5"; E 083°07'41.2") draining water from the vast catchment areas covering Bansi (Siddharthnagar). Bakhira lake drains into river Rapti (near Pali Block, Gorakhpur) through the Eastern Churma nullah (26°50'00.1"N; 083°13'25.4"E). Earlier the lake got connected with river Rapti for about six months but with the erection of Barrage at Pali (1998), inflow of water from Rapti has been stopped, however, outflow is regulated to protect the people inhabiting in the low-lying area

and standing crops being cultivated in the catchment areas of the lake. Water from Bakhira lake is being drained out through two canals at Nevas and Dhodha for irrigation of agricultural crops. At present, water column of the lake has been reduced due to poor rain during 2013-2015. It is pertinent to remark that this lake is heavily infested with aquatic weeds like *Ipomaea aquatica*, *Eichhorhia crassipes*, *Hydrilla verticillata*, *Ceratophyllum demersum*, *Nymphoides* spp., *Elecharis* spp., *Jussieua repens*, *Vallisneria spiralis*, *Potamogeton crispus*, *Naja* spp., *Spirodela polyrrhiza*, *Chara* spp., *Spirogyra* spp., *Oedogonium* spp., *Nitella* spp., *Eichornia crassipes* and *Aurundo donax* which have affected fishery of the lake. Bakhira lake has been declared as Bird Sanctuary in 1990 providing a wintering and staging ground for a number of local and migratory birds. Since thorough understanding of the physico-chemical profiles of the water is required to know the pollution threat to the water bodies, an attempt has been made to record the physico-chemical parameters of water of the protected Bakhira lake which is one of the important wetlands of eastern Uttar Pradesh (Yadava & Sugunan,1990).

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

Physico-chemical parameters of water samples of the protected Bakhira lake were recorded at monthly intervals from the 4 sampling stations (S-1, S-2, S-3, S-4) (Fig.1) dur-

\*Corresponding author (email : akpandey.ars@gmail.com)

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Table. 1 Physico-chemical parameters of water at the 4 sampling stations of Bakhira lake.

Station	Water temp. (°C)	pH	DO (ppm)	D CO <sub>2</sub> (ppm)	Salinity (ppt)	Conductivity (µs/cm)	TDS (mg/l)
<b>March</b>							
S-1	26.4±0.5	7.96±0.3	5.64±0.5	12.4±0.5	0.20	278.5±5.2	168.4±4.1
S-2	26.4±0.6	8.08±0.2	5.28±0.6	12.9±0.4	0.20	280.8±5.8	152.5±3.5
S-3	25.8±0.3	7.98±0.4	5.64±0.4	10.8±0.6	0.20	298.4±4.9	158.5±3.2
S-4	26.2±0.4	8.00±0.5	6.12±0.5	11.2±0.3	0.20	310.6±6.2	161.6±3.4
<b>April</b>							
S-1	29.6±0.5	7.64±0.2	5.42±0.3	12.4±0.6	0.18	312.4±6.3	171.6±3.8
S-2	29.8±0.8	7.23±0.3	5.58±0.5	12.8±0.5	0.20	328.5±6.8	174.3±4.1
S-3	30.2±0.6	7.42±0.4	5.02±0.2	11.9±0.3	0.19	321.4±6.2	168.6±3.9
S-4	30.4±0.4	7.72±0.2	5.16±0.4	11.8±0.4	0.18	332.8±6.7	164.5±3.4
<b>May</b>							
S-1	30.6±0.3	7.86±0.3	5.18±0.3	12.8±0.5	0.20	349.2±7.0	194.3±4.2
S-2	30.2±0.5	7.92±0.2	5.24±0.4	12.2±0.3	0.18	352.4±7.2	201.4±3.8
S-3	30.8±0.4	8.15±0.4	5.45±0.2	11.8±0.4	0.18	361.5±7.4	230.6±4.1
S-4	30.4±0.6	8.18±0.3	5.89±0.3	11.6±0.6	0.20	342.6±7.8	222.8±3.6
<b>June</b>							
S-1	34.6±0.4	7.88±0.4	5.64±0.4	12.4±0.5	0.18	354.2±6.2	228.6±3.8
S-2	34.5±0.3	8.12±0.3	5.76±0.2	12.9±0.4	0.20	371.4±6.8	234.4±4.2
S-3	34.4±0.2	7.98±0.2	5.68±0.2	11.8±0.5	0.18	358.6±7.1	238.5±4.4
S-4	34.8±0.5	8.10±0.2	6.12±0.3	11.9±0.6	0.20	356.5±6.9	227.4±4.1
<b>July</b>							
S-1	27.5±0.6	8.00±0.3	6.12±0.3	11.8±0.5	0.20	388.6±6.2	256.6±4.3
S-2	27.3±0.5	8.22±0.4	6.20±0.4	12.2±0.4	0.20	389.5±6.8	268.4±4.5
S-3	27.8±0.4	9.02±0.2	5.82±0.2	11.7±0.6	0.20	371.7±7.2	242.3±4.1
S-4	27.6±0.3	8.99±0.3	5.96±0.3	11.8±0.5	0.20	368.2±7.0	248.6±4.4
<b>August</b>							
S-1	31.2±0.5	7.64±0.4	5.42±0.5	12.4±0.5	0.18	344.4±5.2	312.4±4.8
S-2	31.2±0.4	7.23±0.3	5.58±0.3	12.8±0.3	0.20	338.5±6.1	305.3±4.5
S-3	31.1±0.6	7.42±0.2	5.02±0.2	11.9±0.4	0.19	328.7±5.8	296.7±4.2
S-4	31.1±0.5	7.72±0.5	5.16±0.3	11.8±0.6	0.18	351.4±6.2	298.4±4.5
<b>September</b>							
S-1	30.2±0.4	7.64±0.3	5.42±0.4	12.4±0.3	0.18	311.3±4.2	278.5±4.1
S-2	29.5±0.6	7.23±0.4	5.58±0.3	12.8±0.5	0.20	322.6±5.1	258.6±3.8
S-3	30.2±0.7	7.42±0.3	5.32±0.2	11.9±0.4	0.19	316.3±4.8	326.3±3.5
S-4	29.4±0.8	7.72±0.2	5.16±0.3	11.8±0.3	0.18	328.2±4.9	220.4±3.2
<b>October</b>							
S-1	28.2±0.6	7.64±0.2	5.42±0.5	12.4±0.6	0.18	301.4±5.6	268.5±4.5
S-2	28.5±0.4	7.23±0.3	5.58±0.3	12.8±0.5	0.20	298.6±5.2	252.4±4.2
S-3	28.6±0.3	7.42±0.4	5.22±0.4	11.9±0.4	0.19	296.8±4.8	236.5±3.9
S-4	28.4±0.2	7.72±0.3	5.16±0.2	11.8±0.3	0.18	302.2±5.1	228.3±3.5
<b>November</b>							
S-1	27.6±0.4	7.64±0.4	5.42±0.3	12.4±0.5	0.18	222.4±4.2	198.4±3.2
S-2	27.4±0.5	7.23±0.3	5.58±0.4	12.8±0.6	0.20	232.5±4.0	202.5±3.6
S-3	28.1±0.3	7.42±0.2	5.11±0.5	11.9±0.5	0.19	214.2±4.1	192.3±3.1
S-4	27.8±0.4	7.72±0.4	5.16±0.2	11.8±0.4	0.18	228.3±4.3	205.4±3.6
<b>December</b>							
S-1	22.2±0.3	7.64±0.3	5.42±0.3	12.4±0.6	0.18	248.8±4.4	208.6±3.6
S-2	22.5±0.4	7.23±0.4	5.58±0.4	12.8±0.5	0.20	238.6±4.2	212.4±3.9
S-3	22.8±0.5	7.42±0.2	5.18±0.2	11.9±0.4	0.19	218.4±4.4	179.5±3.5
S-4	22.7±0.4	7.72±0.3	5.16±0.2	11.8±0.3	0.18	222.5±4.2	158.5±3.2
<b>January</b>							
S-1	20.3±0.2	7.86±0.2	5.18±0.3	12.8±0.6	0.20	224.4±4.2	212.4±3.4
S-2	20.8±0.3	7.92±0.3	5.24±0.2	12.2±0.5	0.18	212.6±4.6	208.6±3.2
S-3	20.2±0.4	8.15±0.4	5.45±0.4	11.8±0.4	0.18	228.5±4.8	178.5±3.0
S-4	20.1±0.2	8.18±0.2	5.89±0.3	11.6±0.3	0.20	231.2±4.8	188.3±3.2
<b>February</b>							
S-1	22.1±0.3	7.86±0.3	5.18±0.2	11.8±0.5	0.18	262.3±4.2	176.5±3.6
S-2	21.8±0.2	7.98±0.4	5.15±0.3	12.1±0.5	0.20	256.5±3.8	168.4±3.1
S-3	21.8±0.4	7.85±0.3	5.18±0.4	11.5±0.4	0.18	248.4±4.1	169.7±3.2
S-4	22.2±0.3	7.98±0.4	5.24±0.2	11.2±0.3	0.20	261.6±4.5	194.5±3.8



Fig.1 Bakhira lake showing the four sampling stations.

ing March,2013-February,2015 with the help of water analysis kit (Thermo Scientific,USA) and average values recorded. However, the detailed analysis of water samples collected from the two sampling sites (S-1, S-4) of the lake (selected based on pollution status) were also done at CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (IITR), Lucknow following the methods of APHA (2012).

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The average values of physico-chemical parameters of water samples collected from the 4 sampling stations of Bakhira lake during March,2013-February,2015 have been summarized in Table.1. However, the detailed analysis of water samples collected from the two sampling sites (S-1, S-4) of the lake were done at CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, Lucknow and the results are summarized in Table.2.

**Colour :** In the present study, the colour (visual observation) of Bakhira lake at the four different sampling sites varied from light brown (rainy season) to brownish (winter and summer).

**Odour :** The odour of water represents dissolved impurities

which are often organic in nature. In the present study during March,2013-February,2015, the odour of Bakhira lake at sampling site S-1 and S-2 was found to be slightly unpleasant whereas at sampling sites S-3 and S-4, it was odourless.

**Temperature :** It is one of the most important physical factors which regulates natural processes within the environment. The greatest source being solar radiation. Most of the solar radiation is absorbed directly by the water. Water temperature of water of Bakhira lake at the four different sites ranged between  $20.1\pm 0.2$ - $34.8\pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  during the period. The lowest temperature was recorded in January and highest in June (Fig. 2).

**pH :** pH of natural water is governed to a large extent by the interaction of  $\text{H}^+$  ions arising from the dissociation of  $\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3$  and from  $\text{OH}^-$  ions produced during the hydrolysis of bicarbonate. pH of Bakhira lake water showed alkaline condition during the period and ranged between  $7.23\pm 0.3$ - $9.02\pm 0.2$  at the four sampling stations. However, water samples of the two sites (S-1, S-3) depicted pH ranging from  $7.12\pm 0.24$ - $9.43\pm 0.24$ . Low pH was recorded in September whereas high pH in April and July (Fig.3) (Table.2).

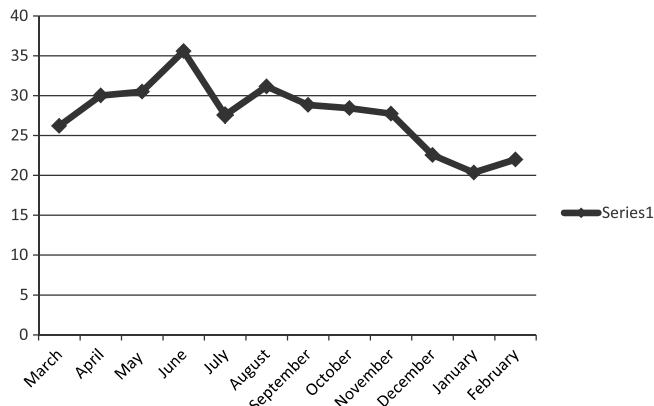


Fig.2 Average monthly variations in water temperature (°C) of Bakhira lake.

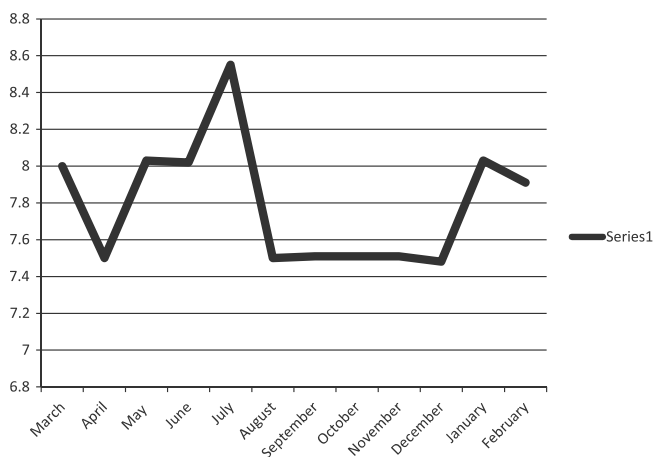


Fig.3 Average monthly fluctuations in water pH of Bakhira lake.

**Dissolved oxygen :** It is one of the most important parameters in water quality assessment and reflects the physical and biological processes occurring in the medium. In natural water, dissolved oxygen (DO) is the most important chemical factor as regulator of metabolic processes in plant and animal community and as indicator of water condition. Non-polluted surface water is normally saturated with dissolved oxygen. The dissolved oxygen at the four sampling stations fluctuated between  $5.02 \pm 0.2$ - $6.20 \pm 0.4$  mg/l during the period. High concentration of dissolved oxygen was observed during March, June and July (Fig.4) which may be due to enhanced photosynthetic activities.

**Dissolved carbon di-oxide :** The dissolved carbon di-oxide ( $\text{DCO}_2$ ) in the water of Bakhira lake at the four sampling stations fluctuated from  $10.8 \pm 0.6$  (March) to  $12.9 \pm 0.4$  mg/l (June) during the period (Fig.5).

**Salinity :** Salinity of Bakhira lake water at the four sampling stations ranged from 0.18-0.20 during the period, the average highest value was recorded in March and July (Fig.6).

**Conductivity :** It is a measure of resistance of a solution to electrical flow. The electrical conductivity has always been used by limnologist as a valuable method to estimate the degree of salt contents and total dissolved solid in water. Conductivity is an index of the amount of soluble salts present in water which ranged between  $212.6 \pm 4.6$ - $371.7 \pm 6.8$   $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$  at the four sampling stations of Bakhira lake (Fig.7). However, water samples of the two sites (S-1, S-4) analyzed at CSIR-IITR, Lucknow depicted conductivity in the range of 212.0-350.6 S/cm. Generally, the electrical conductivity of Bakhira lake water is low during winter (November-January) but high in summer (April-June) and rainy season (July-October). In general, water of Bakhira lake had fairly low contents of dissolved salts at all the sampling stations suggesting less metallic load in the water.

**Biological oxygen demand (BOD) :** It is the measure of oxygen required by micro-organisms for biological oxidation of

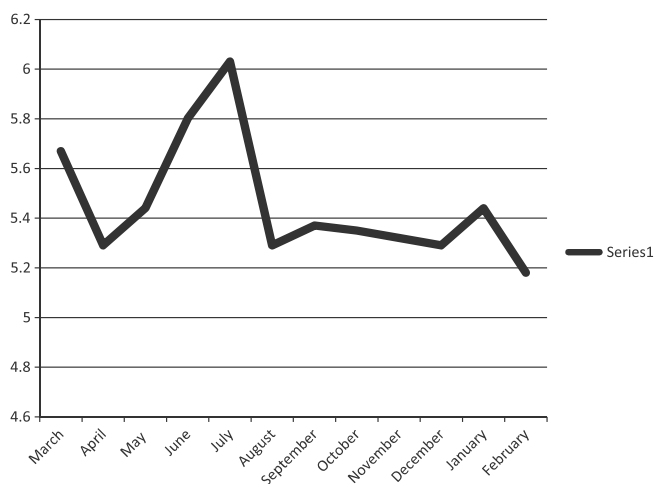


Fig.4 Average monthly variations in dissolved oxygen of Bakhira lake water.

organic matter. The BOD test is useful in pollution control management and evaluation of self-purification capacities of river which serves as a measure to assess the quality of wastes that can be safely assimilated. Biological oxygen demand of Bakhira lake at the two different sites (S-1, S-4) ranged between  $6.5 \pm 2.4$ - $12.4 \pm 2.4$  mg/l during the period (Table.2).

**Chemical oxygen demand (COD) :** It is the measure of oxygen required for chemical oxidation of organic matter present in the water. Chemical oxygen demand of different sampling sites of Bakhira lake during the period were ranged between  $17.6 \pm 4.1$ - $57.7 \pm 4.1$  mg/l (Table.2).

**Total dissolved solids :** Total dissolved solids (TDS) in the water of Bakhira lake at the four sampling stations ranged from  $152.5 \pm 3.5$  (March) to  $326.3 \pm 3.5$  mg/l (September). In general, average high values of TDS were observed during July-October (Table.1 & Fig.8).

**Total solids :** Total solids (TS) in the water of Bakhira lake collected at the two different sites (S-1, S-4) showed the value ranging between  $160.0 \pm 0.34$ - $312.0 \pm 0.34$  mg/l with the high value in August.

**Dissolved solids :** Dissolved solids (DS) in the water of Bakhira lake collected at the two different sites (S-1, S-4) showed the value ranging between  $144.0 \pm 0.34$ - $266.0 \pm 0.34$  mg/l., the high values in June and August

**Suspended solids :** Suspended solids (SS) in the water of Bakhira lake collected at the two different sites (S-1, S-4) depicted the value ranging between  $4.0 \pm 0.34$ - $46.0 \pm 0.34$  mg/l, the highest value being in the month of August.

**Fixed solids :** Fixed solids (FS) in the water of Bakhira lake collected at the two different sites (S-1, S-4) depicted the value ranging between  $104.0$ - $252.0$  mg/l, the higher values observed during May-September..

**Volatile solids :** Volatile solids (VS) in the water of Bakhira lake collected at the two different sites (S-1, S-4) depicted the value ranging between  $40.0$ - $72.0$  mg/l, the lowest value in December and highest in January.

**Chloride :** It occurs naturally in all types of water, however, its concentration remains quite low and is generally less than that of bicarbonates. The most important source of chloride in

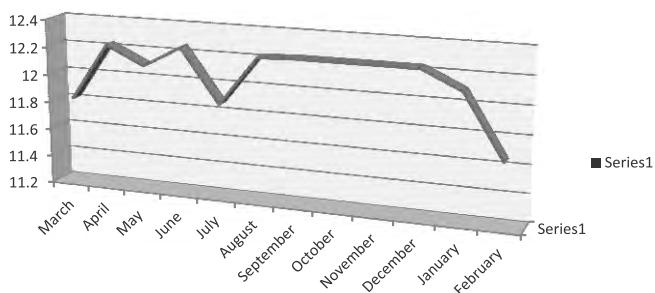


Fig.5 Average monthly fluctuations in dissolved carbon di-oxide of Bakhira lake water.

water is the discharge of domestic sewage. Chloride content of the water of Bakhira lake at the two sampling stations (S-1, S-4) ranged from  $8.0 \pm 0.01$ - $19.0 \pm 0.01$  mg/l, the maximum value was recorded during January.

**Phosphate :** Phosphate in surface water is normally derived from the leaching of minerals from the rocks or soil, decomposing organic matter and drainage from agricultural areas, especially those which have been fertilized, municipal waste water treatment plants and certain industrial wastes. Phosphate content of the water of Bakhira lake at the two sampling stations (S-1, S-4) ranged from  $<0.003 \pm 0.01$  (January) to  $0.39 \pm 0.01$  mg/l (May) during the period under report.

**Sulphate :** It is a naturally-occurring anion in all kinds of natural water. It is found in particularly higher concentration due to accumulation of soluble salt in soil and shallow aquifers. Sulphate content of the water of Bakhira lake at the two sampling stations (S-1, S-4) ranged between  $2.36 \pm 0.09$  (May) -  $16.20 \pm 0.09$  mg/l (November) during the period.

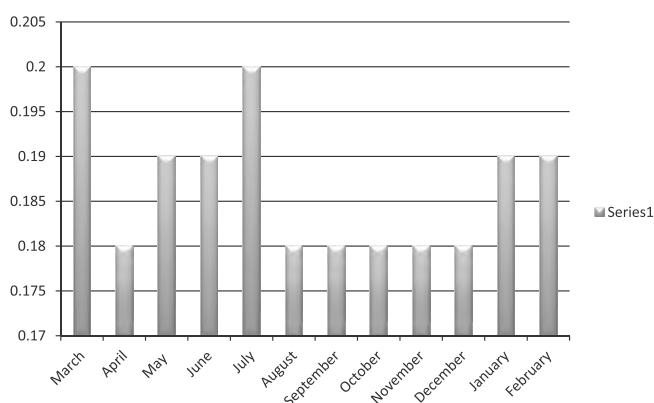
**Nitrate :** Nitrate represents the highest oxidized form of nitrogen. It is the important nutrient in freshwater bodies for the growth of phytoplankton. Most of the surface water are, therefore, deficient in nitrate. Nitrate (as  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ) content of the water of Bakhira lake at the two sampling stations (S-1, S-4) ranged from  $<1.00 \pm 0.06$  to  $4.25 \pm 0.06$  mg/l during the period

**Total nitrogen :** Total nitrogen content of the water of Bakhira lake at the two sampling stations (S-1, S-4) varied from  $3.36 \pm 0.09$ - $10.08 \pm 0.09$  mg/l during the period.

**Fluoride :** Fluoride content of the water of Bakhira lake at the two sampling stations (S-1, S-4) ranged from  $0.30 \pm 0.05$  (March) to  $1.54 \pm 0.09$  mg/l (April) during the period.

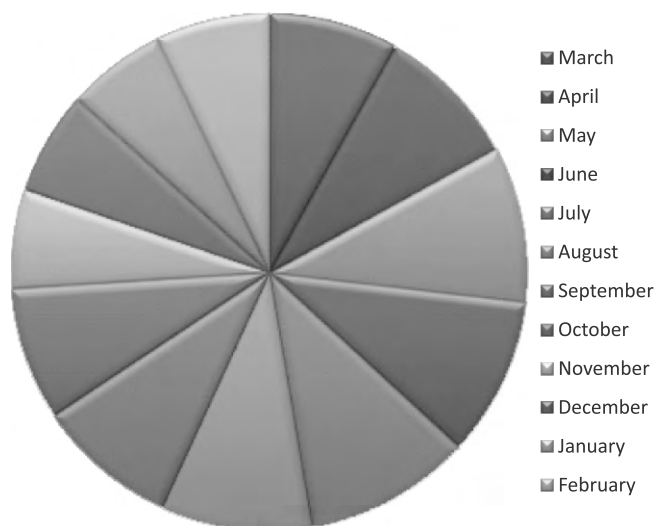
**Oil and grease :** Oil and grease content of the water of Bakhira lake at the two sampling stations (S-1, S-4) ranged from  $<2.54$ .0 (March) to  $16.0$  mg/ml (August) during the period.

Generally, lake functions are directly related to their physical, chemical and biological integrity (Wetzel,1975; Lal



**Fig.6 Average monthly variations in salinity of water of Bakhira lake.**

& Pandey,1999 and Ramachandra,2002). Hence, congenial (optimal) physico-chemical parameters should be maintained in the water bodies for sustainable fisheries (Wetzel, 1975; Lal & Pandey,1999 and Ramachandra,2002). Limno-logical studies and variations in physico-chemical characteristics of the freshwater lakes and rivers of the country have been recorded during the past (Swarup & Singh,1976; Verma *et al.*,1980; Kanungo & Naik,1987; Jain *et al.*,1996; Gopal & Zutshi,1998; Pandey *et al.*,1999; Joshi *et al.*,2009; Mishra *et al.*,2012 and Sharma & Soni,2013). Domestic sewage, fertilizer factory and industrial effluents pollute majority of freshwater resources in India (Ghosh *et al.*,1974; Chari,1985; Jain *et al.*,1995; Lal & Pandey,1994,1995,1999; Basheer *et al.*, 1996; Gopal & Zutshi,1998; Moundiotiya *et al.*,2004; Singh & Singh,2007; Saksena *et al.*,2008; Shiddamallaya & Pratima,2008; Gupta *et al.*,2011; Jayalakshmi *et al.*,2011; Saxena & Saksena,2012; Prajapati & Dwivedi,2013; Yadav *et al.*,2013; Barki & Singa,2014; Katakwar,2014; Saini *et al.*, 2015 and Talwar *et al.*,2015). Such studies of Ramgarh lake, located 56 km away from Bakhira lake has also been made in the past (Sahai & Sinha,1969; Sinha,1969; Srivastava *et al.*, 2006,2007; Singh & Singh,2009; Singh *et al.*,2011,2013, 2014; Singh & Upadhyay,2012; Tiwari,2013; Barnwal *et al.*, 2014,2015 and Bharati & Pandey,2015). Temperature of Bakhira lake water at the four different sites ranged between  $20.1 \pm 0.2$ - $34.8 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$  during the period, with minimum in January and maximum in June. Similar variations in water temperature have also been recorded in other water bodies (Ghosh *et al.*,1974; Basheer *et al.*,1996; Srivastava *et al.*, 2003; Chaurasia & Pandey,2007; Singh & Singh,2009; Srivastava *et al.*,2009; Mishra *et al.*,2011; Biswas *et al.*,2012; Verma *et al.*, 2013; Choudhary *et al.*,2014 and Dixit *et al.*, 2015), however, water temperature was generally low in the water bodies located in subtropical Himalyan region (Joshi & Singh,2001; Agarwal & Raiwar,2010 and Bisht *et al.*,2013). pH of the water collected from the 4 sampling stations of Bakhira lake ranged between  $7.23 \pm 0.3$ - $9.02 \pm 0.2$  which are within the permissible limit of tolerance of fish (Ghosh *et*



**Fig.7 Average monthly fluctuations in conductivity of Bakhira lake water.**

Table 2 Physico-chemical parameters of water at two sampling stations of Bakhira lake.

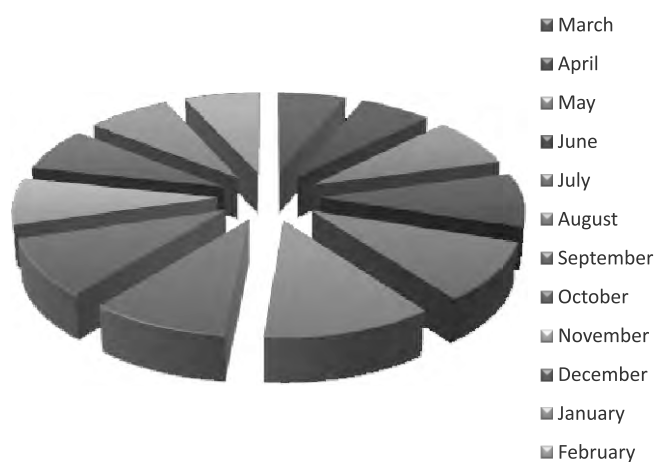
Month	pH	BOD	COD (mg/l)	Total solids	Dissolved solids	Suspended solids	Fixed solids	Volatile solids	Chloride	Phosphate as P	Sulphate as SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	Nitrate as NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	Total nitrogen	Fluoride	Oil & grease	Conductivity (µS/cm)
<b>April</b>																
S-1	9.43±0.236	8.0±2.4	22.0±4.06	186.0±0.34	168.0±0.34	18.0±0.34	130.0	56.0	11.0±0.01	0.36±0.01	6.42±0.09	4.15±0.06	10.08±0.09	1.17±0.05	12.0	277.5
S-4	8.34±0.236	9.0±2.4	30.8±4.06	188.0±0.34	152.0±0.34	36.0±0.34	142.0	46.0	14.0±0.01	0.33±0.01	5.42±0.09	2.31±0.06	7.94±0.09	1.54±0.05	14.0	307.8
<b>May</b>																
S-1	9.12±0.236	6.5±2.4	17.6±4.06	220.0±0.34	198.0±0.34	22.0±0.34	170.0	50.0	8.0±0.01	0.39±0.01	2.36±0.09	2.8±0.06	6.72±0.09	1.18±0.05	8.0	312.8
S-4	9.17±0.236	6.6±2.4	22.0±4.06	236.0±0.34	232.0±0.34	4.0±0.34	182.0	54.0	9.0±0.01	0.35±0.01	2.96±0.09	1.91±0.06	3.36±0.09	1.02±0.05	13.0	328.2
<b>June</b>																
S-1	7.53±0.236	8.4±2.4	24.48±4.06	252.0±0.34	230.0±0.34	22.0±0.34	198.0	54.0	9.0±0.01	0.33±0.01	3.36±0.09	2.81±0.06	8.4±0.09	0.94±0.05	8.0	350.6
S-4	7.57±0.236	7.6±2.4	20.4±4.06	242.0±0.34	224.0±0.34	18.0±0.34	196.0	46.0	10.0±0.01	0.29±0.01	3.96±0.09	3.4±0.06	10.08±0.09	0.98±0.05	6.0	337.4
<b>August</b>																
S-1	7.48±0.236	7.0±2.4	27.44±4.06	312.0±0.34	266.0±0.34	46.0±0.34	252.0	60.0	9.0±0.01	0.027±0.01	3.92±0.09	2.43±0.06	7.28±0.09	0.83±0.05	16.0	344.5
S-4	7.53±0.236	7.5±2.4	31.36±4.06	292.0±0.34	248.0±0.34	44.0±0.34	240.0	52.0	11.0±0.01	0.30±0.01	4.46±0.09	2.2±0.06	8.4±0.09	0.85±0.05	16.0	332.3
<b>September</b>																
S-1	7.12±0.236	8.0±2.4	42.856±4.06	282.0±0.34	256.0±0.34	26.0±0.34	236.0	46.0	16.0±0.01	0.026±0.01	11.22±0.09	2.13±0.56	8.96±0.09	0.53±0.05	6.0	322.8
S-4	7.2±0.236	9.4±2.4	32.96±4.06	212.0±0.34	184.0±0.34	28.0±0.34	162.0	50.0	16.0±0.01	0.016±0.01	3.82±0.09	1.5±0.06	7.84±0.09	0.56±0.05	5.0	310.5
<b>November</b>																
S-1	7.57±0.236	11.2±2.4	38.8±4.06	176.0±0.34	144.0±0.34	32.0±0.34	120.0	56.0	14.0±0.01	0.27±0.01	16.20±0.09	3.02±0.6	9.52±0.09	0.78±0.05	8.0	212.2
S-4	7.37±0.236	12.4±2.4	43.104±4.06	190.0±0.34	164.0±0.34	26.0±0.34	142.0	48.0	18.0±0.01	0.28±0.01	15.60±0.09	1.95±0.06	8.4±0.09	0.67±0.05	8.0	222.6
<b>December</b>																
S-1	7.52±0.236	8.8±2.4	29.8±4.06	202.0±0.34	184.0±0.34	18.0±0.34	162.0	40.0	14.0±0.01	0.34±0.01	14.40±0.09	1.46±0.06	6.72±0.09	0.67±0.05	6.0	245.7
S-4	7.46±0.236	9.2±2.4	37.3±4.06	160.0±0.34	144.0±0.34	16.0±0.34	104.0	56.0	9.0±0.01	0.32±0.01	12.20±0.09	1.47±0.06	8.4±0.09	0.78±0.05	8.0	217.8
<b>January</b>																
S-1	7.48±0.236	8.5±2.4	23.9±4.06	232.0±0.34	210.0±0.34	22.0±0.34	160.0	72.0	19.0±0.01	0.06±0.01	123.00±0.086	4.25±0.06	9.52±0.09	0.62±0.05	12.0	228.2
S-4	7.42±0.236	7.5±2.4	20.5±4.06	168.0±0.34	150.0±0.34	18.0±0.34	120.0	48.0	16.0±0.01	<0.003±0.01	22.90±0.09	<1.0±0.06	7.28±0.09	0.39±0.05	6.5	232.6
<b>March</b>																
S-1	7.71±0.236	11.2±2.4	57.7±4.06	194.0±0.34	168.0±0.34	26.0±0.34	138.0	56.0	13.0±0.01	0.034±0.01	24.50±0.09	<1.0±0.06	5.04±0.09	0.52±0.05	<2.5	258.4
S-4	7.48±0.236	12.4±2.4	54.4±4.06	186.0±0.34	164.0±0.34	22.0±0.34	126.0	60.0	14.0±0.01	0.057±0.01	23.10±0.09	2.06±0.06	6.72±0.09	0.30±0.05	8.5	238.6

*al.*,1974). Srivastava *et al.* (2007) and Singh & Singh (2009) recorded alkaline pH (8.0-8.6) of Ramgarh lake while Gupta and Pandey (2014) found alkaline pH (8.0-8.5) of water of Surajkund pond located in Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh). Ghosh *et al.* (1974) and Mishra *et al.* (2011) also recorded alkaline pH ranging from 7.30 to 8.90 in a sewage-fed pond near Khardah (Barrackpore) and Rani lake (Rewa), respectively. Biological oxygen demand (BOD) and chemical oxygen demand (COD) of Bakhira lake were  $6.5 \pm 2.4$ - $12.4 \pm 2.4$  mg/l and  $17.6 \pm 4.1$ - $57.7 \pm 4.1$  mg/l, respectively suggesting low pollution load. BOD and COD of Rani lake (Rewa) water varied between 8.14-17.47 and 31.89-54.74 ppm, respectively. Chaurasia and Pandey (2007) found high BOD in water ponds of Ayodhya-Faizabad while Srivastava *et al.* (2007), Singh *et al.* (2013), Barnwal *et al.* (2014,2015) and Pandey (2015) also observed high values of BOD and COD of water of Ramgarh lake (eastern Uttar Pradesh). Further, Manna *et al.* (2003) and Biswas *et al.* (2012) found high BOD in man-made lotic fish culture ponds located in Kalyani (West Bengal) and Budha Talab at Chhattisgarh, respectively. BOD and COD are generally low for unpolluted water bodies (Rajshekhkar *et al.*,2007; Agarwal & Raiwar,2010; Shinde *et al.*,2010; Parte,2012 and Saini *et al.*,2015). Conductivity of Bakhira lake water ranged between  $212.6 \pm 4.6$ - $371 \pm 7.2$   $\mu$ S/cm suggesting less metal load in the water. However, conductivity of Ramgarh lake water was comparatively high than those recorded for Bakhira lake (Pandey,2015).

Generally, total dissolved solids, total solids, dissolved solids, suspended solids and volatile solids contents of Bakhira lake water were low and exhibited monthly/seasonal variations with low values during winter months. Though Shinde *et al.* (2010), Parte (2012) and Gupta & Pandey (2014) have recorded high total solids in water of the several water bodies, Agarwal and Raiwar (2010) reported low values ( $102 \pm 0$ - $250 \pm 2$  mg/l) in water of Tehri dam reservoir (Garhwal-Himalaya). Chloride content of Bakhira lake water ranged between  $8.0 \pm 0.01$ - $19.0 \pm 0.01$  mg/l with high values in September, November and January. The values of chloride content observed in this lake were lower than those reported in water of Surajkund pond (Gupta & Pandey,2014) and

Ramgrah lake (Pandey,2015). Ghosh *et al.* (1974) recorded higher values of chloride in the sewage-fed pond near Khardah (West Bengal). Seasonal variations in chloride content of other water bodies have also been recorded (Gonzalves & Joshi,1946; Rajshekhkar *et al.*,2007; Shinde *et al.*,2010; Parte,2012 and Gupta & Pandey,2014) and high chloride content depicts pollution load, suggesting eutrophication of the water bodies (Ghosh *et al.*,1974 and Barnwal *et al.*,2014, 2015). Phosphate content of water of Bakhira lake is low as reported for Budha Talab, Chhattisgarh (Biswas *et al.*,2012), however, the values are much lower as reported for sewage-fed ponds (Ghosh *et al.*,1974 and Basheer *et al.*,1996). Sulphate content of Bakhira lake water ranged between  $2.36 \pm 0.09$  (May)- $16.20 \pm 0.09$  mg/l (November) which are comparatively lower than those observed for Ramgarh lake (Pandey, 2015). Nitrate and total nitrogen contents of Bakhira lake water were generally comparable to the values recorded for Ramgarh lake (Pandey,2015). High values of nitrate and total nitrogen depict high productivity of the lake (Swarup & Singh,1976; Ramachandra,2002; Pathak *et al.*,2004 and Parte,2012). Similar observations have also been recorded from the sewage-fed pond near Khardah (Barrackpore) (Ghosh *et al.*,1974). The main source of nitrate is domestic sewage (Ramachandra,2002 and Singh & Singh,2009) which are getting discharged directly into Bakhira lake from the nearby villages and Bahwa nallah draining water from the vast catchment areas of Bansi (Siddharthnagar).

Fluoride in highly toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms (Neuhold & Sigler,1962; Hamilton & Haines,1995; Camargo,2003; Cao *et al.*,2013; Percy *et al.*,2015 and Singh & Tripathi,2015), however, water quality variables like hardness, chloride and alkalinity do substantially modify its toxicity (Neuhold & Sigler,1962; Hamilton & Haines,1995; Camargo,2003 and Percy *et al.*,2015). Its content in the water of Bakhira lake ranged from  $0.30 \pm 0.05$  (March) to  $1.54 \pm 0.09$  mg/l (April) which are comparable to those recorded for Ramgarh lake (Pandey,2015). Pradhan *et al.* (2014) also found similar fluoride contents in different water bodies of Jaipur. It has been suggested that fluoride concentration as low as 0.5 mg/l can adversely affects fish and aquatic invertebrates and the safe levels below this is recommended in order to protect freshwater organisms from fluoride pollution (Camargo,2003). Fluoride content in drinking water between 0.8-1.2 mg/l is recommended for prevention of tooth decay and strengthening of skeleton and above 1.5 mg/l causes fluorosis leading to pitting of tooth enamel and deposition in bones (Fawell *et al.*,2006 and WHO,2012). Oil and grease content of the water of Bakhira lake fluctuated between  $<2.54$ - $16.0$  mg/ml (August), the values being lower in September, November and December. Similar trend in variations in oil and grease values have also been recorded in water of Ramgarh lake (Pandey,2015). The high values during monsoon season may probably be due to the washing of the content through rain water. Oil and grease contains many low and high molecular weight hydrocarbons that are toxic because fish are particularly susceptible to absorbing these compounds due to high oil and fat contents (Stenstrom *et al.*, 1986). These compounds get dissolved easily into their tis-



**Fig.8 Average month-wise fluctuation in total dissolved solids (TDS) of Bakhira lake.**

sues through contact with the skin and gills. Effects of these compound on fish larvae range from mortality to abnormal development and deformities. Since the effects of oil can last for many years, these can have devastating effect on local fish population (Irwin, 1997; Inyang *et al.*, 2002; FAO, 2012 and Islam *et al.*, 2013). Effluents containing oil and grease should be treated properly before releasing into the water body (Yu *et al.*, 2013). The present study demonstrates that the various physico-chemical parameters of water of the protected Bakhira lake are within the optimal range of fish life.

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