

Fifth Report of the Regular Limnological
Survey of Lake Biwa (1971)
II. Benthos¹⁾²⁾

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(Received September 9, 1972)

The regular limnological survey on benthos at four stations selected in Lake Biwa has been carrying on as a part of the routine work of the Otsu Hydrobiological Station. The aim of this research is to detect quantitative as well as qualitative changes in benthic communities extending over a long period (Mori et al. 1967).

The sampling stations and their conditions, the methods for collection and the results during past five years have been mentioned in the previous papers (Mori et al. 1967; Mori 1970, 1971; Suzuki and Mori 1967, 1968).

The numbers of individuals and total fresh weight of three samples (each 15 × 15 cm) and their average values per m² are shown in Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4. In these tables the following marks are used.

- : No specimen was collected.
- ? : Uncountable because of various reasons.
- () : Average value was calculated from one or two samples.

The series of reports were edited by the Director of the Station, Syuiti Mori, and the present part, on the benthos, was arranged by Syuiti Mori and Tetsuya Narita. The collection of samples was mainly performed by T. Narita, A. Kawabata and T. Ueda, and other members of the Otsu Hydrobiological Station have assisted this survey in many ways.

A. Benthic community at Station Ie-1

Station Ie-1 has been chosen as having a representative character of the northern part of the lake or main basin, where the lake is oligotrophic and the depth is about 74 m.

1) Contribution from the Otsu Hydrobiological Station, Kyoto University, No. 228.
2) JIBP-PF Publication No. 146.

Result is shown in Table 1. Oligochaeta and Amphipoda appeared regularly in the samples of 1971, but Chironomidae larvae were found only in January and March. No Pelecypoda was found in this year.

Increase of Oligochaeta biomass was still persisted in this year.

B. Benthic communities at Stations Nb-2, Nb-5 and Na-3

Stations Nb-2, Nb-5 and Na-3 have been chosen as having the representative characters of the mesotrophic southern part of the lake or sub-basin. Nb-2 (sand or sandy mud substratum) and Na-3 (muddy substratum) are the stations of 0.1 km off the east and west coast of the southern part of the lake respectively and both are about 2 m in depth, while Station Nb-5 (muddy substratum) is in the central part of the southern lake and about 4.5 m in depth.

Results are shown in Tables 2, 3 and 4. Animals found were Oligochaeta, Hirudinea, Chironomidae larvae (more than 4 species), Crustacea (3 species), Gastropoda (5 species), Pelecypoda (5 species) and Pisces (1 species).

The trend of increase of Oligochaeta still continued in this year at Station Nb-5, but at other two stations the populations were maintained nearly constant. A pelecypod mollusc, *Unio biwae*, which showed constant increase through past 5 years, decreased remarkably in this year, especially at Station Na-3. On the other hand, increase of *Spaniotoma* (Chironomidae) is observed in this year, irrespective of the constant decrease during past 5 years (1966-1970). A sudden and remarkable increase of a pelecypod mollusc, *Sphaerium japonicum biwaense*, in this year should be noticed.

Table 2. Benthic faunal composition and their abundance at St. Nb-2

Date	January 13, 1971				February 12, 1971				Average No./m ² g/m ²					
	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg						
Sampling No.	1	2	3	3	1	2	3	3	Average No./m ² g/m ²					
Oligochaeta	—	3	36	2	5	76	0.6	58	9	90	209	2.2		
Gastropoda <i>Semistioaspira</i> <i>decipiens</i> (Westerlund)	—	—	—	1	550	13	8.1	—	—	—	1	480	13	7.1
Pelecypoda <i>Sphaerium japonicum</i> <i>biwaense</i> Mori	—	1	10	4	1	76	0.1	5	0	4	1	—	133	0.1

Date	March 15, 1971				April 15, 1971				Average No./m ² g/m ²						
	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg							
Sampling No.	1	2	3	3	1	2	3	3	Average No./m ² g/m ²						
Oligochaeta	2	60	4	31	5	53	164	2.1	5	59	—	75	0.9		
Hirudinea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	—	13	0.08		
Amphipoda <i>Anisogammarus</i> <i>amandalei</i> (Tattersall)	—	—	2	8	—	—	31	0.1	—	—	—	—	—		
Chironomidae larvae unidentified-B	—	—	1	4	—	—	13	0.06	—	—	—	—	—		
Gastropoda <i>Semistioaspira</i> <i>decipiens</i> (Westerlund)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	920	1	223	—	31	13.9
Pelecypoda <i>Corbicula sandai</i> Reinhardt	1	120	—	—	1	940	31	15.7	—	3	670	—	44	9.9	
<i>Unio biwaensis</i> Kobelt	1	1520	—	—	—	—	13	22.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	
<i>Sphaerium japonicum</i> <i>biwaense</i> Mori	2	1	2	10	2	1	89	0.1	—	5	240	—	75	3.6	

Date	May 13, 1971						June, 15 1971									
	1	2	3	Average	1	2	3	Average	1	2	3	Average				
Sampling No.	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No./m ² g/m ²	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No./m ² g/m ²	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No./m ² g/m ²				
Oligochaeta	6	63	3	12	4	4	191	1.2	1	1	44	4	1	1	679	0.008
Amphipoda <i>Anisogammarus annandalei</i> (Tattersall)	—	—	—	—	1	5	13	0.08	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chironomidae larvae <i>Tendipes plumosus</i> (Meigen)	2	12	—	—	1	11	44	0.3	—	—	—	—	1	0.2	13	0.003
<i>Tendipes halophilus</i> (Kieffer)	1	3	—	—	—	—	13	0.04	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
unidentified	1	1	3	1	—	—	58	0.03	—	1	2	—	—	—	13	0.04
Gastropoda <i>Semisulcospira deceptus</i> (Westerlund)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	10	2	20	—	—	31	0.4
Pelecypoda <i>Corbicula sandai</i> Reinhardt	4	1580	1	1	1	3490	89	75.0	3	20	18	250	2	1	342	4.0
<i>Unio bivae</i> Kobelt	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2190	1	40	—	—	31	33.0
<i>Sphaerium japonicum bivaense</i> Mori	3	150	3	250	7	750	191	17.0	—	—	—	—	3	220	44	3.2
Date	July 12, 1971						August 17, 1971									
Sampling No.	1	2	3	Average	1	2	3	Average	1	2	3	Average				
No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No./m ² g/m ²	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No./m ² g/m ²	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No./m ² g/m ²				
Oligochaeta	—	—	—	—	1	0.3	13	0.004	—	—	—	—				
Amphipoda <i>Kamaka bivae</i> Uéno	—	—	—	—	1	0.4	13	0.004	—	—	—	—				
Chironomidae larvae unidentified	1	0.3	—	—	—	—	13	0.004	—	—	—	—				

Date	September 17, 1971						October 14, 1971									
	1		2		3		Average		1		2		3		Average	
Sampling No.	No.	mg	No.	mg	No.	mg	No./m ²	g/m ²	No.	mg	No.	mg	No.	mg	No./m ²	g/m ²
Gastropoda																
<i>Semisulcospira</i>																
<i>decipiens</i> (Westerland)	3	190	—	—	—	—	44	2.8	—	—	—	—	1	110	13	1.6
<i>Sinotata histrica</i> (Gould)	1	30	—	—	1	3480	31	51.9	—	—	3	1040	—	—	44	15.4
Pelecypoda																
<i>Corbicula sandai</i>	6	320	—	—	4	1780	147	31.1	4	710	6	1200	1	20	164	28.5
Reinhardt																
<i>Unio biwaensis</i> Kobelt	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Sphaerium japonicum</i>	—	—	4	1	—	—	58	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>biwaensis</i> Mori	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Anodonta calipygos</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kobelt	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	350	13	5.2
Date																
Sampling No.																
Oligochaeta																
Gastropoda																
<i>Semisulcospira</i>																
<i>decipiens</i> (Westerland)	—	—	6	1590	1	1610	102	47.4	—	—	—	—	2	610	31	9.0
<i>Sinotata histrica</i>	—	—	4	1990	2	2470	89	66.0	—	—	1	480	1	2430	31	43.1
(Gould)																
<i>Heterogen longispira</i>	1	1240	—	—	—	—	13	18.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(Smith)																
<i>Parafossarulus</i>	1	20	—	—	—	—	13	0.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>manchuricus japonicus</i>																
(Pilsbry)																
Pelecypoda																
<i>Corbicula sandai</i>	4	1010	2	290	6	880	177	32.3	—	—	2	640	8	3380	147	59.5
Reinhardt																
<i>Unio biwaensis</i> Kobelt	—	—	1	5760	1	660	31	95.0	—	—	2	5480	—	—	31	81.1

Date	November 18, 1971						December 17, 1971								
	1	2	3	Average	1	2	3	Average	1	2	3	Average			
Sampling No.	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No./m ² g/m ²	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No./m ² g/m ²	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No./m ² g/m ²			
Oligochaeta	—	4	7	89	2	5	9	23	4	3	222	0.5			
Gastropoda															
<i>Semiatocospira dactylopsis</i> (Westerland)	1	970	1	710	1	320	2	29.6	2	920	2	1070	58	29.4	
<i>Sinotania histrica</i> (Gould)	—	—	1	810	—	—	—	13	12.0	—	—	—	—	—	
Pelecypoda															
<i>Corbicula sandai</i> Reinhardt	2	520	1	240	—	—	—	44	11.2	—	—	—	1030	13	15.2
<i>Sphaerium japonicum</i> <i>bitaense</i> Mori	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	44	0.01	
Pisces															
<i>Rhinogobius brunneus</i> (Temminck et Schlegel)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	321	—	—	31	4.7

Table 3. Benthic faunal composition and their abundance at St. Nb-5

Date	January 13, 1971						February 12, 1971									
	1	2	3	Average	1	2	3	Average	1	2	3	Average				
Sampling No.	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No./m ² g/m ²	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No./m ² g/m ²	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No./m ² g/m ²				
Oligochaeta	20	236	15	673	22	499	844	20.8	14	157	22	781	45	656	1199	23.6
Chironomidae larvae																
<i>Spathotonia</i> spp.	1	4	1	2	—	—	31	0.1	4	38	2	18	4	32	147	1.3
<i>Pentaneura</i> spp.	—	—	1	4	—	—	13	0.07	—	—	1	3	1	5	31	0.1
unidentified	1	0.8	—	—	1	1	31	0.02	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Date	March 15, 1971						April 15, 1971									
Sampling No.	1	2	3	Average	1	2	3	Average	1	2	3	Average				
Oligochaeta	33	660	20	549	27	382	1185	23.6	15	124	7	140	13	113	519	5.6

Sampling No.	May, 13, 1971						June 15, 1971									
	No.	mg	No.	mg	No.	mg	Average	No./m ²	g/m ²	No.	mg	No.	mg	Average	No./m ²	g/m ²
Hirudinea	1	6	—	—	—	—	13	0.09	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Amphipoda	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Anisogammarus</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>annandalei</i> (Tattersall)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	—	—	—	1	4
Chironomidae larvae	2	15	4	74	5	99	164	2.8	—	2	3	—	—	—	1	4
<i>Spanioloma</i> spp.	1	48	—	—	1	19	31	1.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Tendipes plumosus</i> (Meigen)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Tendipes halophilus</i> (Kieffer)	—	—	—	—	1	1	13	0.02	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Pentaneura</i> sp. unidentified-A	2	2	—	—	—	—	31	0.03	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	52	1	17	—	—	—	58	1.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pelecypoda	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Sphaerium japonicum</i>	—	—	1	1	1	1	13	0.01	—	1	10	—	—	—	—	13
<i>biwaense</i> Mori	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Date																
		May, 13, 1971						June 15, 1971								
		1	2	3	2	3	Average	1	2	3	Average	1	2	3	Average	
Oligochaeta	13	213	16	156	7	23	533	5.8	5	112	7	36	266	2.8		
Mirudinea	1	20	—	—	—	—	13	0.3	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Amphipoda	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
<i>Anisogammarus</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
<i>annandalei</i> (Tattersall)	1	6	—	—	1	3	31	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Chironomidae larvae	4	18	—	—	—	—	58	0.3	—	1	5.2	—	—	—	13	0.08
<i>Tendipes plumosus</i> (Meigen)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Pentaneura</i> sp.	2	4	1	2	3	6	89	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
unidentified	2	1	—	—	4	1	89	0.03	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pelecypoda	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Corbicula sandai</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reinhardt	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Sphaerium japonicum</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>biwaense</i> Mori	—	—	—	—	1	5	13	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	280
															13	4.1

Date	July 12, 1971						August 17, 1971									
	No.	mg	No.	mg	No.	mg	Average	No.	mg	No.	mg	Average	No.	mg	Average	
Sampling No.	1		2		3		No./m ² g/m ²	1		2		No./m ² g/m ²	3		Average	
Oligochaeta	2	34	5	54	7	88	209	5	110	4	65	2.6	13	162	324	5.0
Chironomidae larvae	3	5	—	—	1	6	58	1	9	—	—	0.2	—	—	13	0.1
<i>Pentaneura</i> sp. unidentified	1	0.2	—	—	—	—	13	1	0.2	—	—	0.004	—	—	13	0.004
Gastropoda																
<i>Semisulcospira</i> <i>decipiens</i> (Westerlund)	—	—	1	30	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	0.4	—	—	—	—
Pelecypoda																
<i>Corbicula sandai</i> Reinhardt	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2970	13	44

Date	September 17, 1971						October 14, 1971									
	No.	mg	No.	mg	No.	mg	Average	No.	mg	No.	mg	Average	No.	mg	Average	
Sampling No.	1		2		3		No./m ² g/m ²	1		2		No./m ² g/m ²	3		Average	
Oligochaeta	6	36	6	50	9	121	311	9	84	4	62	3.1	13	167	386	4.6
Chironomidae larvae	—	—	—	—	1	1	13	—	—	—	—	0.01	—	—	—	—
<i>Pentaneura</i> sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gastropoda																
<i>Semisulcospira</i> <i>decipiens</i> (Westerlund)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	360	—	—	—	—	—	13	5.3

Date	November 18, 1971						December 17, 1971									
	No.	mg	No.	mg	No.	mg	Average	No.	mg	No.	mg	Average	No.	mg	Average	
Sampling No.	1		2		3		No./m ² g/m ²	1		2		No./m ² g/m ²	3		Average	
Oligochaeta	27	?	15	163	21	142	932	14	158	11	65	(6.8)	20	325	666	8.1
Chironomidae larvae	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	14	1	22	—	—	—	31	0.5
<i>Tendipes plumosus</i> (Meigen)	—	—	1	24	4	80	75	—	—	2	2.5	—	—	—	31	0.4
<i>Spaniotoma</i> spp. <i>Pentaneura</i> sp.	—	—	1	3	—	—	13	1	6	—	—	0.04	—	—	13	0.1

Table 4. Benthic faunal composition and their abundance at St. Na-3
February 12, 1971

Gastropoda <i>Semisulcospira</i> <i>decipiens</i> (Westerlund)	January 13, 1971						February 12, 1971									
	1		2		3		Average		1		2		3		Average	
	No.	mg	No.	mg	No.	mg	No./m ²	g/m ²	No.	mg	No.	mg	No.	mg	No./m ²	g/m ²
	15	109	53	548	27	179	1407	15.2	11	225	28	604	25	229	946	15.7
Hirudinea	—	—	1	10	—	—	13	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chironomidae larvae	13	210	5	60	33	421	755	10.2	2	22	—	—	—	—	31	0.3
Gastropoda <i>Semisulcospira</i> <i>decipiens</i> (Westerlund)	—	—	3	600	3	3070	89	54.3	1	380	—	—	3	1210	58	23.5
Pelecypoda <i>Unio bivaiae</i> Kobelt	—	—	—	—	1	7850	13	116.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Lanceolaria oxylympha</i> (v. Martens)	—	—	1	1750	—	—	13	25.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Gastropoda <i>Semisulcospira</i> <i>decipiens</i> (Westerlund)	March 15, 1971						April 15, 1971									
	1		2		3		Average		1		2		3		Average	
	No.	mg	No.	mg	No.	mg	No./m ²	g/m ²	No.	mg	No.	mg	No.	mg	No./m ²	g/m ²
Oligochaeta	19	249	23	225	19	206	901	10.1	11	103	9	34	10	58	444	2.6
Chironomidae larvae	4	25	5	24	3	16	178	1.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Spartotoma</i> spp. <i>Pentaneura</i> sp. unidentified-A	2	28	3	53	2	30	102	1.6	—	—	—	—	1	10	13	0.2
Gastropoda <i>Semisulcospira</i> <i>decipiens</i> (Westerlund)	1	1380	3	2070	—	—	58	51.1	1	260	1	260	4	1080	89	23.7
<i>Gyraulus bivaensis</i> (Preston)	—	—	1	1	—	—	13	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pelecypoda <i>Sphaerium japonicum</i> <i>bivaense</i> Mori	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	40	—	—	13	0.6

Date	September 17, 1971					October 14, 1971						
	1	2	3	Average		1	2	3	Average			
Sampling No.	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No./m ² g/m ²	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No./m ² g/m ²	No. mg	No. mg	No./m ² g/m ²
Oligochaeta	6 50	7 105	2 6	222 2.4	6 71	7 132	4 61	253 3.9				
Chironomidae larvae <i>Pentaneura</i> sp.	—	1 1	—	13 0.01	—	—	1 3	13 0.04				
Gastropoda <i>Semitsulospira</i> <i>decipiens</i> (Westerlund)	1 1180	—	3 2840	58 59.5	—	—	—	—				
Date	November 18, 1971					December 17, 1971						
Sampling No.	1	2	3	Average		1	2	3	Average			
Oligochaeta	No. mg 47 84	No. mg 22 175	No. mg 13 46	No./m ² g/m ² 1212 4.5	No. mg 6 111	No. mg 8 142	No. mg 8 84	No. mg 324 5.0				
Hirudinea	—	—	1 7	13 0.1	—	—	—	—				
Decapoda <i>Macrobrachium</i> <i>nipponensis</i> (De Haan)	—	—	1 27	13 0.4	—	—	—	—				
Chironomidae larvae <i>Stantonema</i> spp. <i>Pentaneura</i> sp.	—	—	1 20	13 0.3	6 77	1 15	—	102 1.4				
Gastropoda <i>Semitsulospira</i> <i>decipiens</i> (Westerlund)	1 140	—	3 2310	58 36.3	—	1 530	3 1620	58 31.8				

C. On some remarkable changes in biomass of benthic animals

1. Oligochaeta

Average amount of Oligochaeta from 1966 through 1971 at Stations Ie-1, Nb-2, Nb-5 and Na-3 are illustrated in Fig. 1. Changes in the southern lake are not clear except Station 5, but that in the northern lake (Ie-1) is very noticeable. Continuous increase since 1967 seems to indicate a sign of progress of eutrophication there.

2. Pelecypod mollusc, *Unio biwae* Kobelt

Contrary to the trend of previous years, decrease was observed at all stations, especially noticeable at Na-3. The reason of these changes are not clear at present.

3. Pelecypod mollusc, *Spaerium japonicum biwaense* Mori

This small mussel has been occasionally found from shallow bottom of the southern lake, but in this year a sudden increase was observed. Fig. 3 shows the feature of outbreak. The cause of this increase is not determined, but the progress of eutrophication may have a connection with this phenomenon.

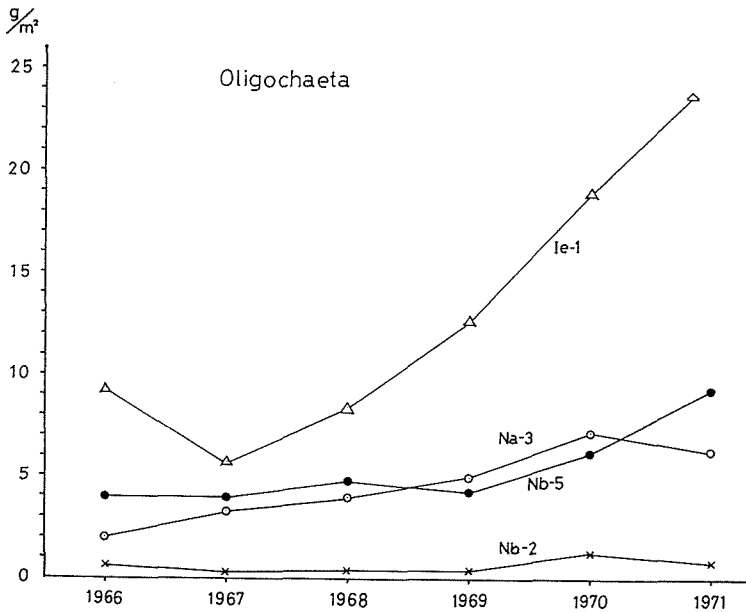


Fig. 1. Change of average biomass of oligochaete worms from 1966 through 1971.

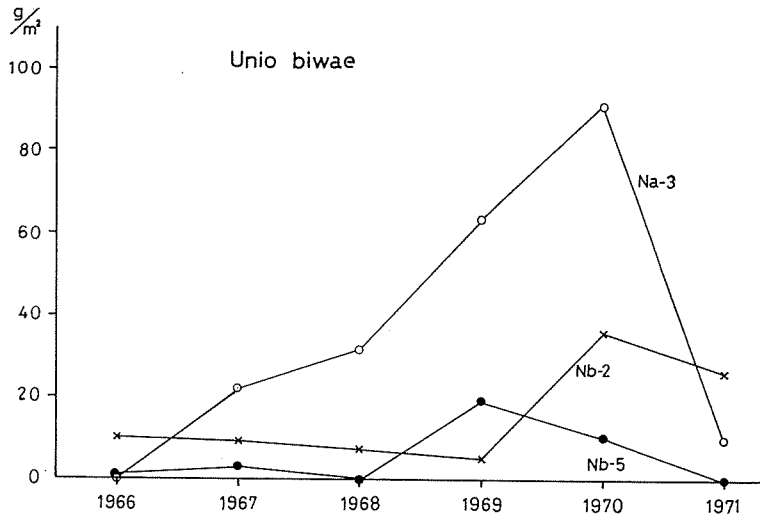


Fig. 2. Change of average biomass of *Unio biwae* from 1966 through 1971.

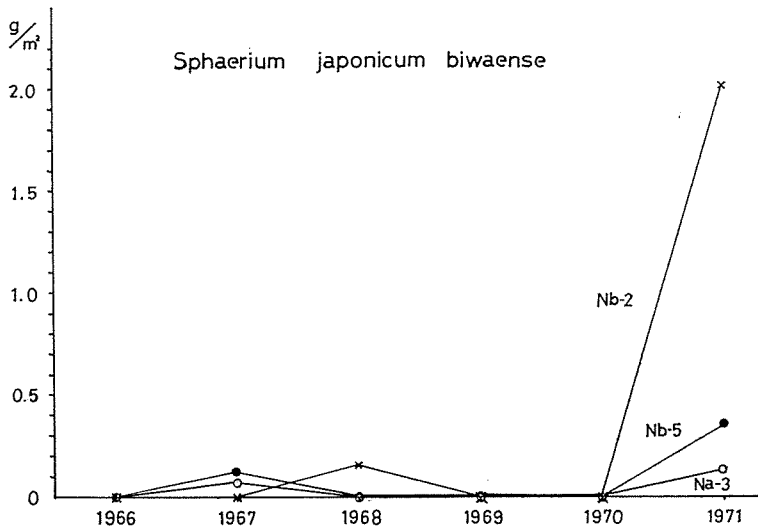


Fig. 3. Change of average biomass of *Sphaerium japonicum biwaense* from 1966 through 1971.

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