

Sixth Report of the Regular Limnological
Survey of Lake Biwa (1972)
II. Benthos¹⁾²⁾

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(Received November 28, 1973)

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

The sampling stations with conditions, the methods for collection and the results obtained during past six years have been reported in the previous papers (Mori et al. 1967; Mori 1970, 1971, 1972; Suzumi and Mori 1967, 1968).

The number of individual and fresh weight of three samples per 15×15 cm and their average values per m^2 are shown in Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4. In these tables the mark—means no specimen was collected.

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 in many ways.

A. Benthic community at Station Ie-1

Station Ie-1 has a representative character of the oligotrophic northern part of the lake or main basin, where the depth is about 74 m and the bottom substratum is muddy.

1) Contribution from the Otsu Hydrobiological Station, Kyoto University, No. 254.

2) JIBP-PF Publication No. 176.

Result is shown in Table 1. Oligochaeta was most predominant and found everytime. The trend of increase of this animal still continued in this year. *Anisogammarus* was collected sometimes and Chironomidae larva (*Spaniotoma*) was found only in February.

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

Stations Nb-2, Nb-5 and Na-3 have a representative character 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 lake respectively and both are about 2 m in depth, while Nb-5 (muddy substratum) is in the central part of the lake and about 4.5 m in depth.

Results are shown in Tables 2, 3 and 4. Animals found were Oligochaeta, Crustacea (5 species), Gastropoda (3 species), Pelecypoda (6 species) and Pisces (1 species).

The increasing trend of Oligochaeta at Station Nb-5, which had been lasted several years, disappeared in this year and the biomass was maintained nearly at the same level of the previous year, as in the cases of Stations Na-3 and Nb-2. The decreasing trend of *Unio biwae* still continued in this year. Also *Sphaerium japonicum biwaense*, which showed a conspicuous outbreak in 1971, decreased to some extent at all stations.

Date	November 15, 1972					December 15, 1972								
	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	Average		
	No.	mg	No.	g/m ²	No.	mg	No.	g/m ²	No.	mg	No.	g/m ²		
Oligochaeta	11	13	14	13	7	49	17	66	13	69	29	104	888	3.5
Amphipoda														
<i>Anisogammarus amandalei</i> (Tattersal)							1	0.3					15	0.004
Chironomidae larvae														
<i>Tendipes plumosus</i> (Meigen)		1	3				7	75	6	18	1	3	209	1.4
<i>Spaniotoma akamushi</i> Tokunaga					1	29								
<i>Spaniotoma</i> sp. A							1	2					15	0.02
<i>Einfeldia</i> sp. A											3	3	44	0.05
Gastropoda														
<i>Semistulospira decipiens</i> (Westerlund)	2	590						30	8.7					
<i>Sinotata histrica</i> (Gould)					2	2880		30	42.6					
Pelecypoda														
<i>Corbicula sandai</i> Reinhardt					1	1110		15	16.4					
<i>Unio biccae</i> Kobelt	1	420						15	6.2					

Table 3. Benthic faunal composition and its abundance at St. Nb-5
January 12, 1972

Date	January 12, 1972					February 16, 1972											
	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	Average					
	No.	mg	No.	g/m ²	No.	mg	No.	g/m ²	No.	mg	No.	g/m ²					
Oligochaeta	8	149	41	466	10	180	10	875	11.8	10	156	13	285	6	65	431	7.5
Hirudinea	1	11	1	8	1	3		44	0.3								
Chironomidae larvae																	
<i>Tendipes plumosus</i> (Meigen)			1	25				15	0.4	1	33					15	0.5
<i>Spaniotoma akamushi</i> Tokunaga	2	36	7	60	4	98	2	192	28.6	2	22	2	51	2	23	89	1.4
<i>Procladius</i> sp. C	1	2						15	0.02								
<i>Einfeldia</i> sp. A			1	1				15	0.01								
<i>Clinotanyphus</i> sp. A											1	5				15	0.08

Date	March 16, 1972						April 14, 1972							
	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	8	144	12	148	19	222	577	7.6	13	150	4	98	457	4.3
Amphipoda <i>Anisogammarus annandalei</i> (Tattersall)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	44	0.2
Chironomidae larvae <i>Spautotoma akanusii</i> Tokunaga	2	9	—	—	4	38	133	0.7	2	34	1	21	44	0.8
<i>Procladius</i> sp. C	1	0.4	—	—	—	—	1.5	0.004	1	1	—	—	133	0.2
<i>Tendipes salinaris</i> Kieffer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0.3
<i>Einfeldia</i> sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	15	0.004
Gastropoda <i>Semisulcospira decipiens</i> (Westerlund)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	480
Pelecypoda <i>Sphaerium japonicum biwaense</i> Mori	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	110
15	7.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	1.6

Date	May 15, 1972						June 16, 1972							
	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	8	12	11	225	8	186	400	6.3	11	38	5	69	324	23.8
Chironomidae larvae <i>Spautotoma akanusii</i> Tokunaga	1	3	—	—	—	—	15	0.04	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Tendipes salinaris</i> Kieffer	—	—	—	—	2	1	30	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Glyptotendipes</i> sp. <i>Colobsectra</i> sp. J	3	4	2	3	—	—	75	0.1	—	1	2	—	15	0.03
<i>Colobsectra</i> sp. J	2	0.3	1	0.2	—	—	44	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pelecypoda <i>Sphaerium japonicum biwaense</i> Mori	—	—	1	170	—	—	15	2.5	—	—	—	—	—	—

Table 4 Benthic faunal composition and its abundance at St. Na-3
February 16, 1972

Date	January 12, 1972			February 16, 1972			Average No./m ² g/m ²
	1	2	3	1	2	3	
Sampling No.	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No./m ² g/m ²
Oligochaeta	8 87	9 174	26 263	91 604	16 49	16 337	1820 14.8
Chironomidae larvae							
<i>Spaniotoma akamusi</i>	—	3 54	3 51	7 9	1 15	4 4	178 0.4
Tokunaga	—	—	—	1 1	—	—	15 0.01
<i>Spaniotoma</i> sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Tendipes plumosus</i> (Mciger)	—	—	—	—	—	2 46	30 0.7
Gastropoda							
<i>Semistiloscira</i> <i>deceptus</i> (Westerlund)	—	2 1480	—	1 700	3 2160	—	59 42.2
Pelecypoda							
<i>Sphaerium japonicum</i> <i>bivaense</i> Mori	—	—	—	1 10	—	—	15 0.1
Pisces							
<i>Rhinogobius similis</i> (Gill)	1 104	—	—	—	—	—	—

Date	March 16, 1972			April 14, 1972			Average No./m ² g/m ²
	1	2	3	1	2	3	
Sampling No.	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No. mg	No./m ² g/m ²
Oligochaeta	25 97	6 68	41 838	26 220	7 35	11 161	653 6.2
Hirudinea	1 7	—	—	—	—	1 11	15 0.2
Amphipoda							
<i>Aisogammarus</i> <i>annandalei</i> (Westerlund)	1 1	—	—	—	2 10	—	30 0.2
Chironomidae larvae							
<i>Spaniotoma akamusi</i>	9 98	6 61	3 11	1 13	4 90	—	75 1.5
Tokunaga	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Tendipes plumosus</i> (Mciger)	1 1	3 1	2 2	—	—	—	—
<i>Glinatanyphus</i> sp.	—	—	—	—	1 3	—	15 0.05
Gastropoda							
<i>Semistiloscira</i> <i>deceptus</i> (Westerlund)	1 680	1 90	1 600	—	2 1100	—	30 16.4

C. On some remarkable changes in biomass of benthic animals

1. Oligochaeta

Biomass change of Oligochaeta from 1966 through 1972 at each station is illustrated in Fig. 1. A constant increase in the northern lake (Ie-1) is very remarkable, which seems to indicate a progress of eutrophication there. In the southern lake the biomass is maintained nearly at the same level since 1970.

2. Gastropod mollusc, *Sinotaia histrica* (Gould)

This is a small viviparous gastropod inhabiting predominantly at rather polluted water areas. Sudden appearance of this water snail since 1970 at St. Na-3 and since 1971 at St. Nb-2 (Fig. 2) should be considered as a result of a progress of eutrophication of the lake, especially at littoral zone.

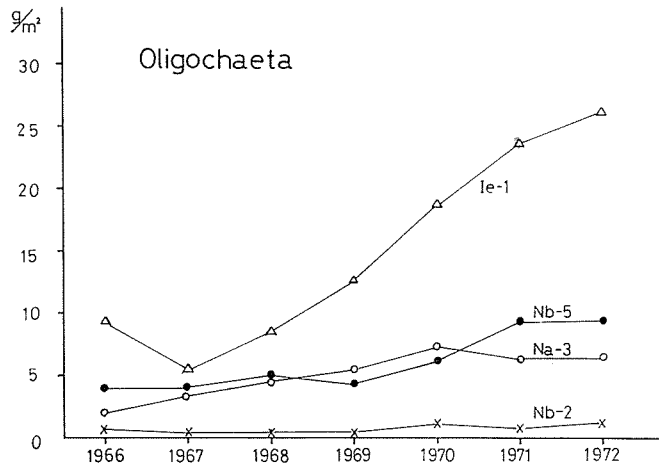


Fig. 1. Change of average biomass of oligochaete worms from 1966 through 1972.

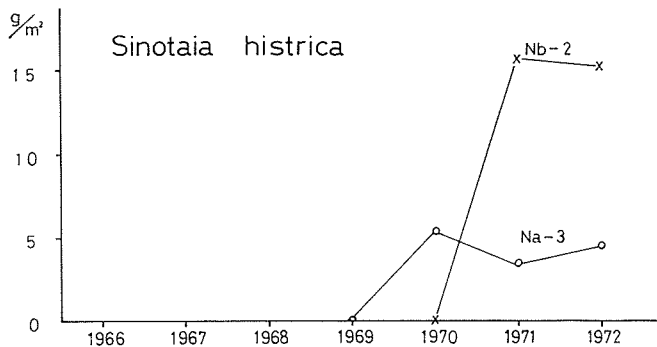


Fig. 2. Change of average biomass of *Sinotaia histrica* from 1966 through 1972.

3. Pelecypod mollusc, *Unio biwae* Kobelt

The decreasing tendency still continued in 1972 at every station (Fig. 3). The cause of this sudden decrease since 1971 is not clear at present.

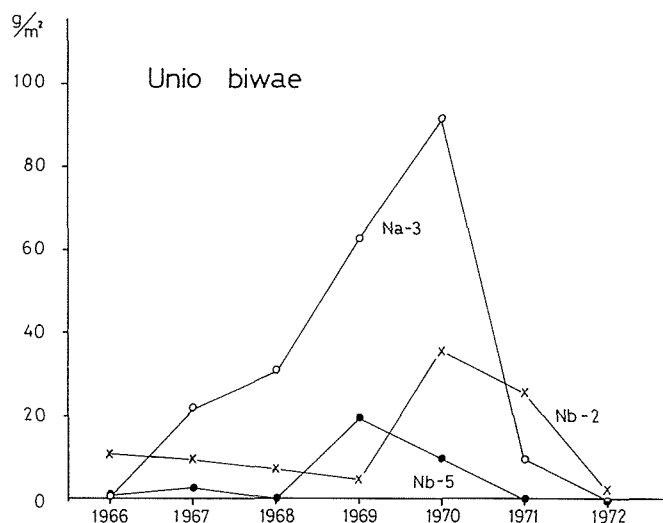


Fig. 3. Change of average biomass of *Unio biwae* from 1966 through 1972.

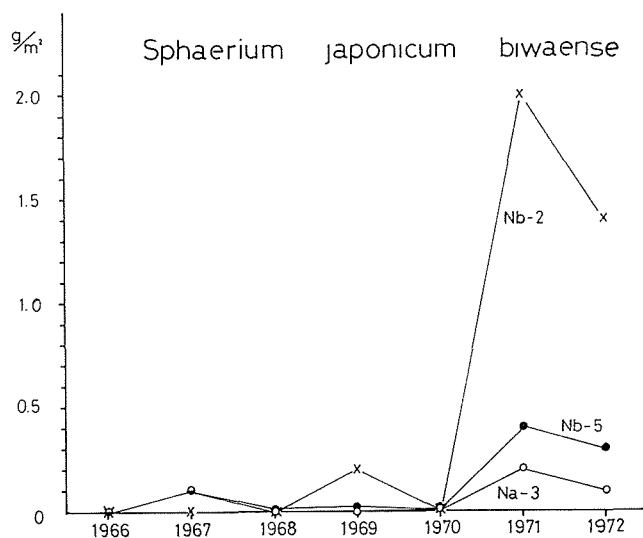


Fig. 4. Change of average biomass of *Sphaerium japonicum biwaense* from 1966 through 1972.

4. Pelecypod mollusc, *Sphaerium japonicum biwaense* Mori

The clear decrease was observed in this year following 1971's outbreak (Fig. 4). The cause of this decrease is not clear also at present.

Literature

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