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Investigation of Diversity and Distribution of Phytoplankton Cysts in the Recent Sediments of the Western Chabahar Coasts

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Abstract

In this paper, the diversity and distribution of phytoplankton cysts in the recent sediments of the western Chabahar Coasts were investigated. The sampling from cysts was done from 27 stations three times in summer and fall 2014. This sampling was done using Grab Ekman (225×225 cm). Physiochemical analysis of water was done by standard methods. According to the results of this research, 72 species belonged to 22 genera of Dinoflagellates were found. *Scrippsiella* and *Protoperodinium* with the most abundance were the prevailing species. Although, *Scrippsiella*, which was observed in most stations in both sampling seasons, is not a poisonous species, it has the capacity to produce harmful blooms. In general, the results of this study showed that the cysts frequency in different seasons has a significant difference and sediment type as a significant factor influences their abundance, so that smaller seed sediments are more abundant.

Keywords: *Cyst, Dinoflagellates, Sediments, Species variety, Distribution, Western Chabahar Coasts.*