RESEARCH

Seasonal infuence of physicochemical and climatic parameters on phytoplankton diversity and abundance pattern in community managed semi-impacted foodplain wetland

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Received: 18 December 2023 / Accepted: 25 May 2024 / Published online: 22 June 2024 © The Author(s), under exclusive licence to Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2024

Abstract Wetlands provide numerous ecological services and are key habitats for aquatic fora and fauna. In the Beledanga wetland, the current study was conducted for 3 years, from July 2019 to June 2021, to evaluate the seasonal infuence of physicochemical parameters on phytoplankton diversity and abundance patterns. Overall 48 genera of phytoplankton were observed. Bacillariophyceae (27%) contributed the maximum to the total phytoplankton density. The total abundance of phytoplankton was found utmost during monsoon $(4.081 \times 10^3$ unit 1^{-1}) and least during post-monsoon (3.316 \times 10³ unit l −1). One-way analysis of variance indicated signifcant seasonal differences $(p<0.05)$ for some genera. The study gave the idea about the most infuencing physicchemical parameters (dissolved oxygen, turbidity, total hardness, Ca^{2+} , and total nitrogen) on the growth of phytoplankton with the help of diferent multivariate and univariate analysis (canonical correspondence analysis and Karl Pearson's correlation). The study again highlighted that climate parameters (temperature and rainfall) had some effect on the phytoplanktonic groups. Our study conceded that N:P in the studied wetland was less than the Redfeld ratio (16:1) in all three seasons, while the Si:P ratio was noticed in the high range (15:1) during

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pre-monsoon. The value of the Shannon diversity index and Margalef's species richness index were noticed to be>3, which signifed quite rich in phytoplankton diversity. But the value of Algal Pollution Index, which describes the ecological pollution level based on the present algal genera was observed high throughout all seasons, indicating organic load. So in future the studied wetland may get adversely afected with infuence of anthropogenic activities. Therefore, for sustainable biodiversity of the waterbody, the anthropogenic activities (retting and intensifcation of agricultural farming) and macrophytes need to be controlled and regulated.

Keywords Wetland · Phytoplankton · Diversity · Climate · ANOVA · Redfeld ratio

Introduction

India is fortunate to have access to abundant resources of 0.55 million ha of foodplains spread throughout the Ganga and Brahmaputra river basins, which support about 85 fsh species and have an estimated annual production potential of around 1000 kg/ha. These resources provide security for food and livelihood (Karnatak et al., [2022;](#page-18-0) Sarkar et al., [2020](#page-19-0)). These wetlands provide favourable habitats for various aquatic organisms like fshes, plankton, benthos, macrophytes, etc. (Karnatak et al., [2022\)](#page-18-0) besides several other ecological services and work as a carbon sink (Nag et al.,

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[2023](#page-19-1)). Wetlands are very diverse and productive waterbodies, providing many fshermen with numerous goods, ecological services, and livelihood security (MEA [2005](#page-18-1)). The water body gives several important commercial fsh a safe feeding, breeding, and spawning ground (Jhingran & Pullin, [1985](#page-18-2)). Because of this, wetlands are among the best and most productive fsheries resources among all the other types of water bodies, with an annual output potential of 1500–2000 kg/ha (Sarkar et al., [2016](#page-19-2)). In recent years, the productivity and diversity richness of the wetlands have rapidly reduced due to amplifed anthropogenic activities caused by industries, hydroelectric power plants, sewage systems, and other environmental challenges (Gogoi et al., [2019](#page-18-3); Sarkar & Borah, [2018\)](#page-19-3). This era's industrialization, modernization, urbanization, and economic growth brought several stresses and degradation to the environment, mainly in the aquatic environment (Ukaogo et al., [2020](#page-19-4)). Due to this stressful condition, the physicochemical parameters of the water body have changed. This altered physicochemical profle of water has impacted various biotic organisms like plankton, benthos, and fishes. Therefore, this can serve as standard knowledge for biologists and ecologists to comprehend the current ecological link between biotic components like plankton with the surrounding environment in wetlands.

Plankton is known as an accurate biotic indicator of any aquatic body (Mohanty et al., [2022\)](#page-19-5). Phytoplankton are the primary producer of the food web of waterbody; thus, they play a remarkable component in any water body (Haque et al., [2021\)](#page-18-4). The density and diversity of phytoplankton in freshwater are infuenced by several water variables of the aquatic ecosystem (Ahmed & Wanganeo, [2015\)](#page-18-5). Thus, any changes in physicochemical properties, especially in water body nutrients, can modify phytoplankton's diversity and density (Atique & An, [2020](#page-18-6); Haque, [2006;](#page-18-7) Haque et al., [2021](#page-18-4)). Therefore, monitoring the existence and nonexistence of phytoplankton in an aquatic ecosystem must give essential information and common connections within a water body (Thakur et al., [2013](#page-19-6)). Besides water parameters, there are other several climatic conditions like temperature fluctuation, rainfall, light accessibility, and consumption (Cloern, [1996;](#page-18-8) Sommer, [1989\)](#page-19-7). Changing the climatic factor can alter the environmental factor of the water body and can modify the phytoplankton structure in terms of diversity and density (Winder & Sommer, [2012](#page-19-8)).

Beledanga wetland is an oxbow lake in the lower Gangetic basin of North 24 Parganas district in West Bengal, with a total area of 113.67 acres (46.00 ha) (Karnatak et al., [2022\)](#page-18-0). The studied wetland's area gradually decreased by 47.73 acres (19.15 ha) in 40 years due to several reasons like macrophyte plague, water stress, and sedimentation aggravated by climatic change. The wetland provides livelihood security to fishermen (nearly 176 families) (Karnatak et al., [2022](#page-18-0)). The reduction of area causes alteration in the habitat of many biotic components.

There are several kinds of literature available on the dynamics of phytoplankton diversity and density of lower Gangetic basin wetlands. However, no such reports are available on the present community-managed semi-impacted wetlands. Therefore, this study attempts to document the seasonal variation of phytoplankton richness and diversity along the infuential climatic and physicochemical parameters and identify some pollution-indicating species for sustainable management of small-scale wetland fsheries.

Materials and methods

Study area

The present study was carried out seasonally for a period of 3 years from July 2019 to June 2021. The Beledanga wetland is the ox-bow lake and a seasonally opened wetland situated in the lower Gangetic basin of North 24 Parganas district in West Bengal having a total area of 113.67 acres (46.0 ha). It is connected by a narrow channel with the river Ichhamati. The connection is established only during monsoon season. The wetland is mainly used for fshery purposes, jute retting, and irrigation of nearby agriculture farms. Three sampling stations have GPS coordinates (23°4′5.67″N 88°45′37.17″E, 23°4′45.33″N 88°45′21.53″E, 23°5′28.27″N 88°45′30.85″E).

The study area map was prepared with the help of QGIS 2.18 (Fig. [1](#page-2-0)). Three seasons were the pre-monsoon (January to April), monsoon (May to August), and post-monsoon (September to December).

Fig. 1 Study area of diferent stations of Beledanga wetland

Phytoplankton collection, preservation, and analysis

The samples were collected seasonally from three stations (88°75′96.68″E–23°07′08.03″N, 88°75′45.13″E–23°08′07.93″N, 88°75′ 60.1656″E–23°08′97.086″N) of the studied wetland. Sampling was done between 9 and 10 a.m. with the help of a wooden boat. The samples were taken in triplicates from each station. For the phytoplankton diversity and density study, 50 l sub-surface water was filtered through a 20-um bolting silk meshsized plankton net (Gogoi et al. [2009](#page-18-9)). The fltered samples were shifted to HDPE plastic containers and preserved with 4% neutral bufered formalin. The identifcation was made by following some keynotes viz. Desikachary [\(1959](#page-18-10)), Prescott [\(1955\)](#page-19-9), Bellinger and Sigee (2015) (2015) (2015) , and Cox (1996) (1996) . For valid and updated names, Algae Base (Guiry & Guiry, [2020\)](#page-18-13) was followed. Taxonomic identifcation and quantitative assessment were done by the trinocular microscope $(40 \times \text{and} 60 \times \text{magnification})$ Model No.-Zeiss scopeA1). Quantitative analysis was done by the drop count method (Lackey, [1938\)](#page-18-14), and the density was expressed as unit per liter.

Physico-chemical parameters

Water samples were collected seasonally from all the sampling sites in an acid-washed and autoclaved bottle. Several water variables like water temperature (WT), transparency (TRAN), pH, specifc conductivity (SPC), alkalinity (ALK), total hardness (TH), turbidity (TUR), dissolved oxygen (DO), and total hardness and salinity (SAL) were analysed in the feld. Dissolved oxygen, total alkalinity, and total hardness were analysed by titration method using standard methods in situ (APHA, [2017](#page-18-15)). pH, specifc conductivity, water temperature, salinity, and TDS were measured by the digital probe (YSIPRO DSS). The transparency of the water body was measured with the help of a Secchi disk.

For the nutrients (silicate, sulfate, nitrate, total nitrogen, and phosphate), Ca^{++} , and Mg^{++} analysis, the water samples were brought to the laboratory and preserved in cold conditions and analysed per APHA [\(2017](#page-18-15)).

Statistical analysis

The density and distribution of planktonic groups were analysed in excel. One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Duncan's test was performed in water variables and phytoplankton groups of the studied wetland of diferent seasons. Bray–Curtis similarity is based on hierarchical clusters of stations manifested through a dendrogram. Diferent indices (Shannon–Wiener index, Simpson's index, and Pielou's evenness index) were analysed using PAST (4.02) software. The canonical correspondence analysis (CCA) was used to know the water parameters that infuence the phytoplankton community of the studied wetland in PAST (4.02) software.

Algal Genus Pollution Index

Palmer's Algal Genus Pollution Index (Palmer, [1969\)](#page-19-10) was used to evaluate the contamination status of the wetland. Twenty phytoplankton genera which were tolerant to organic pollution were used in the pollution index by assigning each genus with an index score in the range of 1 to 5. After the identifcation of all phytoplankton genera, the allocated factor of genera was calculated, and the value was known as the index value. An index value of more than 20 indicates high organic pollution, a value between 15 and 19 signifes probable organic pollution, and a value of smaller than 15 signifes low pollution.

Climatic variables

Time series grid data (annual) for temperature $(1^{\circ} \times 1^{\circ})$ and rainfall $(0.25^{\circ} \times 0.25^{\circ})$ for a period of 47 years 1975–2022 were obtained from the India Meteorological Department (Pai et al., [2014;](#page-19-11) Srivastava et al., [2009\)](#page-19-12).

Results

Climate condition

The climatic parameter like rainfall and air temperature was taken from IMD sites to understand the efect of climate on phytoplankton. The variation of the air temperature and water temperature is given in Fig. [2.](#page-4-0) The air temperature was recorded as maximum during monsoon (30.25 ± 0.13) while minimum during pre-monsoon (22.73 ± 2.52) . The analysis of monthly average temperature revealed a warming trend over the last few decades. Although the mean maximum temperature did not show a warming trend, the mean minimum and overall mean temperature showed warming trends indicating seasonal temperature changes. Rainfall was recorded as high during monsoon (10.36 ± 2.30) and lower during pre-monsoon (0.87 \pm 0.56). The grid data of the annual average rainfall pattern over the last 4 decades is highly fuctuating and did not show any trend at the study site.

Physico-chemical factors

The physicochemical parameters of the wetland were analysed during three seasons and depicted in Fig. [3.](#page-5-0) One-way ANOVA and post hoc Duncan's test of physicochemical parameters had shown signifcant seasonal differences $(p < 0.05)$ for water temperature, transparency, specifc conductivity, total alkalinity, DO, turbidity, TDS, $Ca + +$, phosphate, and silicate. The water temperature ranged from 21.41 ± 1.26 to 31.38 ± 0.21 °C, i.e., lower during pre-monsoon and higher during monsoon. Dissolve oxygen was found highest during post-monsoon $(7.44 \pm 0.16$ ppm) and lowest during monsoon $(6.75 \pm 0.16 \text{ ppm})$. Transparency was recorded as maximum during premonsoon $(165.89 \pm 3.56$ cm) and minimum during monsoon $(83.29 \pm 5.003 \text{ cm})$. Specific conductivity ranged from 332 ± 11.38 to 453 ± 12.67 µS, i.e., minimum during monsoon and maximum during pre-monsoon. Similarly, nutrients also varied signifcantly with seasons. Sulphate ranged from 0.23 ± 0.25 to 0.26 ± 0.25 ppm, i.e., lowest during pre-monsoon and highest during post-monsoon. Phosphate was recorded as maximum during premonsoon $(0.13 \pm 0.005$ ppm) and minimum during post-monsoon $(0.102 \pm 0.01$ ppm). Silicate was found

Fig. 2 Air temperature trend and annual rainfall trend (yearly average) at the study site

Fig. 3 Recorded average physicochemical parameters of studied wetland

high during pre-monsoon $(15.07 \pm 0.22$ ppm) and low during monsoon $(6.09 \pm 0.44$ ppm). The total nitrogen value was found high during the monsoon season $(0.066 \pm 0.05$ ppm), while a lower value was found during the post-monsoon season $(0.044 \pm 0.03 \text{ ppm})$.

Nutrient dynamics

To identify the main factors that restrict the growth of diferent phytoplankton groups, the concentrations of three nutrients, such as total nitrogen, phosphate, and silicate fractions, were compared seasonally. As a result, there was less nitrogen available for phytoplankton development in the water than the Redfeld ratio (16:1) in all seasons. Similarly, the Si:P ratio was noticed in the same range (15:1) during pre-monsoon (Brzezinski, [1985\)](#page-18-16) but less in the other two seasons. It indicates silicate enrichment in the wetland during the pre-monsoon.

Phytoplankton composition and distribution

Overall 48 genera belonging to 10 algal taxonomic classes in Beledanga wetland were recorded during the study period. The algal groups were Bacillariophyceae (BAC), Mediophyceae (MED), Coscinodiscophyceae (COS), Chlorophyceae (CHL), Trebouxiophyceae (TRE), Ulvophyceae (ULV), Cyanophyceae (CYA), Zygnematophyceae (ZYG), Dinophyceae (DIO), and Euglenophyceae (EUG). The number of genera and percentage composition of algal groups were given in Figs. [4](#page-6-0) and [5](#page-7-0) respectively. The result showed that the maximum contribution in terms of density was by the group Bacillariophyceae (27%) followed by Cyanophyceae (16%) and Zygnematophyceae (14%). Species like *Tabellaria* spp., *Meridion* spp., *Diatoma* spp., *Nitzschia* spp., *Gyrosigma* spp., etc. were recorded under the group Bacillariophyceae, and the group was found to be dominant during pre-monsoon $(1.55 \times 10^3 \text{ unit } 1^{-1})$. Under the Coscinodiscophyceae, *Coscinodiscus* spp., *Aulacoseira* spp., and *Urosolenia* spp., *Acanthoceros* spp. were recorded, and the group was found to be maximum during pre-monsoon $(3.31 \times 10^2 \text{ unit } 1^{-1})$. Similarly under the group Mediophyceae, *Cyclotella* spp. and *Centronella* spp. were recorded and found to be high during pre-monsoon $(4.37 \times 10^2 \text{ unit } l^{-1})$. Under the groups Ulvophyceae and Dinophyceae, only one genus each was recorded, i.e., *Ulothrix* spp. and *Ceratium* spp. respectively. Chlorophyceae was represented by *Oedogonium* spp., *Scenedesmus* spp., *Tetraspora* spp., *Volvox* spp., *Pandorina* spp., and *Pediastrum* spp. *Treubaria* spp. were recorded and found maximum during monsoon $(5.82 \times 10^2$ unit 1^{-1}). The group Zygnematophyceae was found to be dominant during monsoon $(8.39 \times 10^2$ unit 1^{-1}), and under the group, *Closterium* spp.,

Fig. 4 The number of genera recorded under individual phytoplankton group

Fig. 5 Percentage contribution of algal groups during three diferent seasons of Beledanga wetland

Staurastrum spp., *Cosmarium* spp., and *Spirogyra* spp. were recorded. Euglenophyceae was chiefy dominated by *Euglena* spp., *Trachelomonas* spp. and *Phacus* spp. the maximum density of this group was observed maximum during monsoon $(3.92 \times 10^2 \text{ unit } l^{-1})$. Under the group Cyanophyceae, many flamentous algae like *Gloeotrichia* spp., *Anabaena* spp., *Nostoc* spp., *Oscillatoria* spp., *Lyngbya* spp., and some colonial algae like *Merismopedia* spp. were recorded, and the abundance of the group was found maximum during monsoon $(8.87 \times 10^2 \text{ unit } 1^{-1})$. The total abundance of phytoplankton was found maximum during monsoon and minimum $(4.081 \times 10^3 \text{ unit } l^{-1})$ during post-monsoon $(3.316 \times 10^3 \text{ unit } 1^{-1})$.

One-way ANOVA, post hoc, and Duncan's test of phytoplankton genera had shown signifcant differences $(p < 0.05)$ for some genera such as *Tabellaria* spp., *Diatoma* spp., *Nitzschia* spp., *Pinnularia* spp., *Gyrosigma* spp., *Amphora* spp., *Fragilaria* spp., *Synedra* spp., *Surirella* spp., *Coscinodiscus* spp., *Urosolenia* spp., *Cyclotella* spp., *Treubaria* spp., *Acanthoceros* spp., *Centronella* spp., *Ceratium* spp., *Ulothrix* spp., *Tetraspora* spp., *Volvox* spp., *Pediastrum* spp., *Chlorella* spp., *Actinastrum* spp., *Trochiscia* spp., *Staurastrum* spp., *Cosmarium* spp., *Spirogyra* spp., *Desdium* spp., *Zygnema* spp., *Euglena* spp., *Trachelomonas* spp., *Gloeotrichia* spp., *Merismopedia* spp., *Spirulina* spp., *Anabaena* spp., and *Nostoc* spp.

Phytoplankton diversity indices and richness

The diversity indices of wetlands in diferent seasons were calculated and depicted in Fig. [6.](#page-8-0) The Simpson index ranged between 0.966 and 0.975, i.e., minimum during monsoon and maximum during post-monsoon. The Shannon–Wiener diversity (H′) was found highest during post-monsoon (3.77) and minimum during monsoon (3.5). Margalef species richness index also showed similar observations, i.e., highest during postmonsoon (5.8) and minimum during monsoon (4.57). Pielou's evenness index was found maximum during pre-monsoon (0.92) and minimum during monsoon (0.85). The highest number of taxa was found during post-monsoon (48 genera) followed by pre-monsoon (40 genera) and monsoon (39 genera).

Cluster analysis

The Bary–Curtis cluster analysis was carried out to recognize the similarity level of phytoplankton genus composition in three diferent stations of Beledanga wetland and given in Fig. [7.](#page-8-1) The cophenetic correlation was calculated as 0.766 indicating that the clustering was average. The analysis discovered that the highest of phytoplankton species was between Station-1 and Station-2, i.e., 90%. Similarly, a separate cluster was formed between Station-3 and Station-1 and Station-2 having a similarity of 87%.

Fig. 6 Diversity indices of phytoplankton groups during three seasons

 $0.855 -$

Fig. 7 Cluster analysis of studied wetland

Infuence of physicochemical parameters on phytoplankton distribution

Canonical correspondence analysis

The CCA was done between the 48 genera of phytoplankton and 18 water variables (WT, TRAN, pH, DO, SPC, TDS, SAL, TUR, TH, FCO₂, ALK, CA, MG, TN, AN, SILI, SUL, and PHOS). It was created taking account of all three seasons and depicted in Fig. [8](#page-9-0). The length of the arrow denotes the signifcance of attributes with negative and positive correlation with axes 1 and 2. The Eigenvalue of axis 1 is 0.355 and 64.74% percentage of variance, while the Eigenvalue of axis 2 is 0.040 and 7.31% percentage of variance. Both the percentage of variance and Eigenvalue were found higher on axis 1 than the axis 2. *Frustulia* spp., *Aulacoseira* spp., *Meridion* spp., *Nitzschia* spp., *Gyrosigma* spp., *Cymbella* spp., *Fragilaria* spp., *Centronella* spp., and *Scenedesmus* spp. were positively infuenced by phosphate, transparency, and free $CO₂$. The variables DO, sulfate, TDS, salinity, total alkalinity, silicate, and specifc conductivity had shown a close relationship with the phytoplankton genera such as *Diatoma* spp., *Synedra* spp., *Surirella* spp., *Meloseira* spp., *Mastogloia* spp., *Amphora* spp., *Urosolenia* spp., *Cyclotella* spp., *Acantoceros* spp., and *Treubaria* spp. Total nitrogen and nitrate positively infuenced the *Staurastrum* spp., *Ceratium* spp., *Closterium* spp., *Spirogyra* spp., *Cosmarium* spp., *Zygnema* spp., and *Pandorina* spp. The species like *Spirulina* spp., *Ulothrix* spp., *Anabaena* spp., *Phacus* spp., *Trachelomonas* spp., *Nostoc* spp., *Lyngbya* spp., *Volvox* spp., *Oscillatoria* spp., *Euglena* spp., *Chlorella* spp., *Actinastrum* spp., *Merismopedia* spp., *Trochiscia* spp., *Gloeotrichia* spp., *Spirogyra* spp., and *Euglena* spp. were more gradient towards

Axis 1 (64.74%)

Fig. 8 CCA analysis between diferent planktonic groups and environmental variables. WT water temperature, TRAN transparency, DO dissolved oxygen, SPC specifc conductivity, TDS total dissolve solids, SAL salinity, TUR turbidity, TH total hardness, $FCO₂$ free $CO₂$, ALK total alkalinity, CA Ca, MG Mg, TN total nitrogen, AN nitrate, SILI silicate, SUL sulphate, PHOS total phosphate. Phytoplankton: 1—*Tabellaria* spp.; 2—*Meridion* spp.; 3—*Diatoma* spp.; 4—*Nitzschia* spp.; 5—*Gyrosigma* spp; 6—*Frustulia* spp.; 7—*Pinnularia* spp.; 8—*Amphora* spp.; 9—*Cymbella* spp.; 10—*Fragilaria* spp.; 11—*Synedra* spp.; 12—*Surirella* spp.; 13—*Meloseira* spp.; 14—*Mastogloia* spp.; 15—*Coscinodiscus* spp.; 16—*Aul-* *acoseira* spp., 17—*Urosolenia* spp.; 18—*Cyclotella* spp.; 19—*Treubaria* spp.; 20—*Acantoceros* spp. 21—*Centronella* spp.; 22—*Ceratium* spp.; 23—*Ulothrix* spp., 24—*Oedogonium* spp., 25—*Scenedesmus* spp.; 26—*Tetraspora* spp., 27—*Volvox* spp., 28—*Pandorina* spp., 29—*Pediastrum* spp.; 30—*Chlorella* spp.; 31—*Actinastrum* spp., 32—*Trochiscia* spp.; 33—*Closterium* spp.; 34—*Staurastrum* spp.; 35—*Cosmarium* spp.; 36—*Spirogyra* spp.; 37—*Desdium* spp.; 38—*Zygnema* spp.; 39—*Euglena* spp.; 40—*Phacus* spp.; 41—*Trachelomonas* spp.; 42—*Gloeotrichia* spp., 43—*Merismopedia* spp.; 44—*Spirulina* spp.; 45—*Anabaena* spp.; 46—*Nostoc* spp.; 47—*Oscillatoria* spp.; 48—*Lyngbya* spp

Table 1 Algal genus pollution index of Beledanga wetland during three seasons

	Pre-monsoon	Monsoon	Post-monsoon
Oscillatoria spp.	4	4	4
Pandorina spp.	1		
Scenedesmus spp.	4	4	4
Chlorella spp.	3	3	3
Closterium spp.			
Cyclotella spp.		0	
Euglena spp.	5	5	5
Melosiraspp.		1	
Nitzschia spp.	3	3	3
Synedra spp.	2	2	2
Phacus spp.	2	$\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{L}}$	\mathfrak{D}
Total	27	26	27

water temperature, Ca, Mg, pH, total hardness, and turbidity.

Karl Pearson's correlation

Karl Pearson's coefficient of correlation was computed between all the algal groups and water variables to fnd out the infuencing physic-chemical parameters on the phytoplankton group and depicted in Table [1](#page-10-0) and Fig. [9.](#page-10-1) The study revealed that group Bacillariophyceae was signifcantly positively infuenced by specifc conductivity, transparency, alkalinity, phosphate, and silicate while negatively infuenced by water temperature and turbidity. Coscinodiscophyceae had shown a signifcant positive relation with transparency, specifc conductivity, alkalinity, phosphate, and salinity while a negative relation with turbidity. Cyanophyceae and Chlorophyceae were positively infuenced by water temperature, turbidity, total hardness, Ca, Mg, and total nitrogen.

Fig. 9 Karl Pearson's correlation between phytoplankton and water parameters (box in the fgure denotes the signifcant level $(p > 0.05)$

Ulvophyceae, Trebouxiophyceae and Zygnematophyceae had shown a positive correlation with turbidity, water temperature, and Ca. The total phytoplankton density was positively infuenced by DO, turbidity, total hardness, Ca, and total nitrogen.

Algal pollution index

A total of 11 genera of pollution-indicating algae were found during the three seasons and depicted in Table [1.](#page-10-0) The value of the index was found high during all three seasons (pre-monsoon, monsoon, and post-monsoon). This indicates a high organic pollution load throughout the study period.

Infuence of climatic changes on the phytoplankton

The impact of climatic variation has been studied in the present study by observing the correlation as well as the linear trend line curve between the diferent phytoplankton groups with the temperature and rain-fall (Figs. [10](#page-11-0) and [11\)](#page-13-0). From the Karl Pearson correlation (Fig. [12\)](#page-15-0), it is evident that the majority of the phytoplankton groups have been infuenced by the variation in the rainfall and temperature which has signifcantly infuenced their distribution. The only phytoplankton group which does not show variation with temperature was Ulvophyceae while remaining all phytoplankton groups showed signifcant variation. The temperature positively infuenced the groups like Chlorophyceae (*r*=0.69, *p*>0.5), Trebouxiophyceae (*r*=0.80, *p*>0.5), Zygnematophyceae $(r=0.77, p>0.5)$, Euglenophyceae $(r=0.58,$ $p > 0.5$), Cyanophyceae $(r=0.65, p > 0.5)$ while negatively influenced Bacillariophyceae $(r = -0.81$, *p*>0.5), Coscinodiscophyceae (*r* = −0.78, *p*>0.5), and Mediophyceae $(r = -0.80, p > 0.5)$. Similarly, rainfall had a signifcant positive efect on the groups

Fig. 10 Linear regression curve between air temperature and phytoplankton groups

like Chlorophyceae $(r=0.80, p>0.5)$, Trebouxiophyceae $(r=0.86, p>0.5)$, Zygnematophyceae $(r=0.72,$ *p*>0.5), Euglenophyceae (*r*=0.71, *p*>0.5), Cyanophyceae $(r=0.79, p>0.5)$ while a positive effect on Bacillariophyceae $(r = -0.80, p > 0.5)$, Coscinodiscophyceae $(r = -0.67, p > 0.5)$, and Mediophyceae (*r*= −0.78, *p*>0.5).

Fig. 10 (continued)

From the linear regression curve, it is evident that the phytoplankton groups having $R^2 > 0.5$ with temperature are Bacillariophyceae $(R^2=0.655)$,
Coscinodiscophyceae $(R^2=0.617)$, Mediophy- $Coscinodiscophyceae$ ceae $(R^2 = 0.639)$, Dinophyceae $(R^2 = 0.545)$, CHL $(R^2 = 0.483)$, Trebouxiophyceae $(R^2 = 0.633)$, and Zygnematophyceae $(R^2 = 0.590)$. The linear regression curve phytoplankton groups have $R^2 > 0.5$ with rainfall Bacillariophyceae $(R^2=0.639)$, Coscinodiscophyceae ($R^2 = 0.458$), Mediophyceae ($R^2 = 0.610$), Dinophyceae (R^2 =0.497), Ulvophyceae (R^2 =0.568),
Chlorophyceae (R^2 =0.649), Trebouxiophyceae Chlorophyceae $(R^2=0.649)$, Trebouxiophyceae $(R^2=0.736)$, Zygnematophyceae $(R^2=0.512)$, Z ygnematophyceae Euglenophyceae $(R^2 = 0.489)$, and Cyanophyceae

 $(R^2=0.635)$. The linear regression curve for temperature and rainfall was given in Figs. [9](#page-10-1) and [10](#page-11-0) respectively.

Discussion

Plankton is the natural food for fsh in aquatic ecosystems. However, the hypothesis that planktivorous fish play a role in the regulation of lower trophic levels in freshwater ecosystems has been the subject of intense debate for a long time, and several diferent approaches to interaction have been proposed (Mehner et al., [2002\)](#page-18-17). Phytoplankton is the key indicator

Fig. 11 Linear regression curve between rainfall and phytoplankton groups

Fig. 11 (continued)

group for stagnant water, used for monitoring the wetland ecosystem.

Physicochemical parameters

The physicochemical profle of any aquatic ecosystem can infuence the biotic community of the water body (Haque et al., [2021\)](#page-18-4). The water temperature was found high during monsoon. A similar observation was found by many authors (Gogoi et al., [2019](#page-18-3); Haque et al., [2021](#page-18-4)). The transparency was found minimal during monsoon; this might be due to the high rainfall, sediments, silts, and debris inorganic and organic particles were washing into the water body. Therefore transparency reduces during monsoons (Haque et al., [2021\)](#page-18-4)**.** The DO was maximum during post-monsoon which was similar to the study of Sharif et al. [\(2017](#page-19-13)). Similarly, the value of pH, alkalinity, hardness, and specifc conductivity was found low during the monsoon season. A similar fnding was reported by many researchers (Kumar et al., [2021;](#page-18-18) Mohanty et al., [2023;](#page-19-14) Venkateshwarlu et al., [2011\)](#page-19-15).

Fig. 12 Karl Pearson's correlation between phytoplankton and air temperature and rainfall

Nutrient dynamics

Like other water variables, nutrients also varied with seasons. Total nitrogen was found low during postmonsoon. This could be a result of the photosynthetic plankton using total nitrogen (Gogoi et al., [2019\)](#page-18-3). In pre-monsoon, phosphate levels were high, which may have been caused by low water levels. In post-monsoon, phosphate levels were low, maybe as a result of photoautotrophs consuming the phosphate and sediment acting as a buffer (Rajasegar, [2003\)](#page-19-16). Silicate was found maximum during pre-monsoon and minimum during monsoon. The results showed that N:P was less than the Redfeld ratio (16:1) in the studied wetland's water level during all seasons, indicating that there was less nitrogen available for phytoplankton development. A similar observation was found in Kailash Khal of Sundarban by Gogoi et al. [\(2019](#page-18-3)). The concentration of silicate was found higher than other nutrients (phosphate and total nitrogen). The lower value of N:P ratio during all seasons might be due to the excess macrophyte plague in the wetland. As the macrophytes are autotrophic in nature, therefore for growth, they utilize phosphate and total nitrogen. Xu et al ([2019\)](#page-19-17) said that macrophytes absorb 49.85% and 18.35% of total nitrogen (TN) and total phosphorus (TP) from Taihu Lake, China. Another example was in Jiangsu Province, China. The macrophytes are used to reduce nitrogen (Zhao et al., [2020](#page-20-0)). Seasonal estimates of the N:P ratio, according to Choudhury and Bhadury [\(2015](#page-18-19)), mainly stayed below the Redfeld ratio of 16:1 at Sagar Island. This condition needs to be controlled for the development of this wetland. Otherwise, in future, the wetland will lose its phytoplankton groups which is the natural feed for almost all fshes.

Plankton composition and distribution

Overall 48 genera belonging to 10 algal taxonomic classes in the Beledanga wetland were recorded during the study period. Bacillariophyceae was found maximum during pre-monsoon, which might be due to high silica concentration, long photoperiod, and favourable environmental conditions. The minimum density was recorded during monsoon which might be due to an increase in depth due to high rainfall (Gogoi et al., [2021b](#page-18-20)). All the algal groups such as Chlorophyceae, Cyanophyceae, Zygnematophyceae, and Ulvophyceae were found maximum during monsoon, which might be due to rich nutrient concentration which comes from municipality waste and agricultural farming present around the wetland and high temperature (Gogoi et al., [2021a](#page-18-21); Nowrouzi & Valavi, [2011](#page-19-18)). According to the current study, the signifcant prevalence of Coscinodiscophyceae during pre-monsoon may have been caused by an increase in salinity from post-monsoon to pre-monsoon. A similar observation was noticed by Gogoi et al. ([2019](#page-18-3)) in the Kailash Khal wetland of Sundarban. One-way ANOVA and Duncan's test of phytoplankton had shown signifcant differences $(p < 0.05)$. The total phytoplankton density was found maximum during monsoon which might be due to the connectivity with the Icchamati river. The river connectivity has a great impact on the diversity and density of the phytoplankton community of wetland (Mohanty et al., [2023](#page-19-14)). The lowest abundance of phytoplankton abundance during post-monsoon is due to the considerable presence of macrophytes at that time (Gogoi et al., [2021c](#page-18-22)).

Diversity indices

Diversity indices were measured to recognize the status of ecological systems as they were used as indicators of the aquatic body (Cardoso et al., [2012](#page-18-23)). The Shannon–Wiener diversity (H′) was found highest during post-monsoon (3.77) and minimum during monsoon (3.5). A similar observation was found in the Karatoya River (KR) in Sirajgong District, Bangladesh by Haque et al. ([2021\)](#page-18-4). Both Shannon diversity index and Margalef's species richness were noticed>3 in Beledanga wetland water which signifed quite rich in phytoplankton diversity and less pollution in the ecosystem (Gogoi et al., [2019](#page-18-3); Parakkandi et al., [2021](#page-19-19)). The value of Pielou's evenness index was found to be more than 0.92 during premonsoon during the study period, which signifes an even distribution of phytoplankton in the wetland. In contrast, minimum values of the diversity indices were shown during the monsoon season which might be due to the jute retting in the studied waterbody (Ghosh & Biswas, [2018\)](#page-18-24).

Pollution indicator species

The present study revealed 11 genera of pollution indicating algae were recorded as listed by Palmer [\(1969](#page-19-10)). The value of the index was found high during all the three seasons such as pre-monsoon, monsoon, and post-monsoon. This indicates a high organic pollution load present during all the seasons of the study period. The Desmids and diatoms (*Tabellaria* and *Cyclotella*) were found to dominate in oligotrophic lakes (Reynolds, [1995\)](#page-19-20). The species like *Closterium* spp., *Staurastrum* spp., and *Cosmarium* spp. are designated as good water quality indicators, and the absence of these species signifes the pollution condition in the waterbody (Hosmani & Mahadev, [2002](#page-18-25)).

Infuence of physicochemical parameters on phytoplankton

Canonical corresponding analysis

The growth and reproduction of phytoplankton were regulated by water temperature (Munn et al., [1989\)](#page-19-21). High water temperature helps in triggering the growth of Cyanobacteria (Gogoi et al., [2019](#page-18-3); Li et al., [2013\)](#page-18-26). Many of the phytoplankton such as *Spirulina* spp., *Ulothrix* spp., *Anabaena* spp., *Phacus* spp., *Trachelomonas* spp., *Nostoc* spp., *Lyngbya* spp., *Volvox* spp., *Oscillatoria* spp., *Euglena* spp., *Chlorella* spp., *Actinastrum* spp., *Merismopedia* spp., *Trochiscia* spp., *Gloeotrichia* spp., *Spirogyra* spp., and *Euglena* spp. had shown to be positively infuenced by water temperature. According to Naskar et al. [\(2020\)](#page-19-22), transparency, alkalinity, temperature, and total nitrogen were more infuencing the phytoplankton genera. In our study, many phytoplankton genera were shown to be positively infuenced by these physicochemical parameters. The growth of diatoms needs a high concentration of silica. In our study, diatoms such as *Diatoma* spp., *Synedra* spp., *Surirella* spp., *Meloseira* spp., *Mastogloia* spp., *Amphora* spp., *Urosolenia* spp., and *Cyclotella* spp. had shown to be positively infuenced by silicate. Harris and Gurel ([1986\)](#page-18-27) opined that nutrients afected phytoplankton biomass. Thus, phosphate, total nitrogen, and sulfate had shown to be positively infuenced many phytoplankton genera like *Diatoma* spp., *Synedra* spp., *Surirella* spp., *Meloseira* spp., *Mastogloia* spp., *Amphora* spp., *Urosolenia* spp., *Cyclotella* spp., *Ceratium* spp., *Spirogyra* spp.,

Zygnema spp., and *Pandorina* spp. The DO had a positive relationship with several phytoplankton genera such as *Diatoma* spp., *Synedra* spp., *Surirella* spp., *Meloseira* spp., *Mastogloia* spp., *Amphora* spp., *Urosolenia* spp., and *Cyclotella* spp. This is because of the photosynthetic activities of phytoplankton groups (Sekerci & Petrovskii, [2018](#page-19-23)). Specifc conductivity had shown a positive effect on several phytoplankton genera (Potapova & Charles, [2003\)](#page-19-24).

Karl Pearson's correlation

In our study, Coscinodiscophyceae had shown a signifcant positive relation with salinity which was similar to the study by Gogoi et al. ([2019\)](#page-18-3). Ulvophyceae was positively infuenced by total nitrogen; this might be due to the utilization of nutrients by photo-synthetic plankton (Gogoi et al., [2019](#page-18-3)). The present study revealed that dissolved oxygen, turbidity, total hardness, Ca, and total nitrogen are positively related to total phytoplankton density.

Infuence of climatic changes

In this study, it was compared with older NICRA papers showing general rainfall patterns in Bengal and North 24 Paraganas (Das et al., [2022](#page-18-28); Sarkar et al., [2019](#page-19-25), [2020](#page-19-0)). Air temperature has a signifcant efect on the growth of phytoplankton because the mean temperature showed a changing trend between 22.73 and 30.25, which seems favourable for the growth of phytoplankton. The present study revealed that temperature signifcantly infuenced groups like Chlorophyceae, Trebouxiophyceae, Zygnematophyceae, Euglenophyceae, and Cyanophyceae positively. Several authors have reported that diatoms showed dominance during winter (Prants et al., [2015\)](#page-19-26). In our study, a significant negative correlation was found with Bacillariophyceae, Coscinodiscophyceae, and Mediophyceae.

Conclusion

A total of 48 genera belonging to 10 algal taxonomic classes were recorded in the Beledanga wetland. The maximum contribution in terms of density is by the group Bacillariophyceae followed by Cyanophyceae and Zygnematophyceae. Both Shannon diversity index and Margalef's species richness were noticed>3 in Beledanga wetland which signifed quite rich in phytoplankton diversity and less pollution in the ecosystem. The organic load pollution of the wetland was found high during all three seasons. This might be due to excessive jute retting and agricultural farming. The study again highlighted the most infuencing physicochemical parameters (dissolved oxygen, turbidity, total hardness, Ca, and total nitrogen) on the growth of phytoplankton. Our study revealed N:P in studied wetlands less than the Redfeld ratio (16:1) in all three seasons, while the Si:P ratio was noticed in the high range (15:1) during pre-monsoon. The current study enhanced knowledge of phytoplankton seasonal variation and the impact of physicochemical parameters on phytoplankton diversity and density, which may be applied to fsheries management and fish stocking for enhancement programmes.

Availability of data

Data will be provided on request of the corresponding author.

Acknowledgements The authors thank the director of ICAR-CIFRI for providing the research facilities to conduct the present study.

Author contribution Basanta Kumar Das: Conceptualized, overall guidance and manuscript corrections; **Trupti Rani Mohanty**: Concept, manuscript preparation; **Shreya Bhatachaya**: manuscript editing; **Kausik Mondal:** Sample collection, taxonomic identifcation; **Nitish Kumar Tiwari**: Concept, statistical analysis, interpretation and manuscript preparation; **Purna Chandra:** Sample collection; **Gunjan Karnatak, Lianthuamluia, Sangeeta Chakraborty, Pranaya Parida, Archan kanti Das, Aparna Roy**; manuscript preparation and corrections.

Funding Authors are thankful to World Fish under W3 programme for providing the fnancial support to conduct the study.

Declarations

Ethical approval All authors have read, understood, and complied as applicable with the statement on "Ethical Responsibilities of Authors" as found in the instructions for Authors.

The authors declare that they have strictly followed all the rules and principles of ethical and professional conduct while completing the research work. No specifc permission was required to collect the phytoplankton samples at the study sites.

Consent to participate Not applicable.

Consent for publication Not applicable.

Confict of interest The authors declare that they have no confict of interest.

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