

## THE DIVERSITY AND SOME ECOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF CHIRONOMID LARVAE IN THE SOUTHWEST SEGMENT OF BEIRA LAKE

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Water quality parameters and the diversity of chironomid larvae in two sites in the South-west segment of Beira lake, Sri Lanka were studied from November 1996 to April 1997. Larvae of two genera, *Chironomus* and *Einfeldia* were present in the benthic samples. *Einfeldia* larvae were abundant throughout the sampling period and *Chironomus* larvae were found only in March 1997 at one sampling site. At the second sampling site, both genera were found in more or less similar abundance from mid January to early April 1997. Of the water quality parameters determined i.e., dissolved oxygen (DO), biological oxygen demand and salinity, only DO had a significant correlation with the abundance of *Einfeldia* at one sampling site.