

DIVERSITY OF PLANKTONIC DIATOMS IN KUWAIT TERRITORIAL WATERS – ARABIAN GULF

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The diversity of the major planktonic diatoms along the coast of Kuwait has been studied for 12 years (Jan 2000-Jan 2012) and their taxonomic accounts have been given. The phytoplankton population was represented mainly by diatoms, constituting more than 90 % of the total population. Among the dominant diatom genera, blooms of *Pseudo-nitzschia seriata* and *Pseudo-nitzschia pungens* were observed every year during September. The overall dominant species, present throughout the whole year, were *Chaetoceros curvisetus*, *Ch. pseudocurvisetus*, *Rhizosolenia*.

A detailed account of 19 genera and 100 species of diatoms will be presented.