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Fresh Water Algae Found in Kalay University Campus and its Surrounding Areas

Moat War Dine Naw¹ and Thein²

Abstract

Algae are very diverse photosynthetic plants that have neither roots nor leafy shoots and which also lack vascular tissues. They occur in marine, fresh water and also on the soil. They can grow extreme habitats such as hot spring and polar region. This study emphasized on the fresh water algae found in Kalay University campus and its surrounding areas. The aims of this study are to identify fresh water algae of these areas and to know the beneficial algae. Algae specimens were collected from ponds, lakes, canals and streams which are situated in the Kalay University and its surrounding areas. This study was carried out within two months, March and April, 2008. As results, the members of Cyanophyta, Rhodophyta, Bacillariophyta, Euglenophyta and Chlorophyta are described with their photographs.

Introduction

Algae are extremely important not only economically, but also phylogenetically. Now a day, algae are widely applied in many purposes all over the world. They are used as human nutrition, animal feed in aquaculture. The utilization of macroalgae or their extraction residues is the increase in water-binding capacity and mineral composition of the soil and thus they are used as biofertilizers. N₂-fixation with microalgae is important for rice production in tropical and subtropical agriculture. They promote germination, leaf or stem growth, or flowering. A future trend seems to be the use of biological activity of microalgal products against plant diseases caused by viruses or bacteria. It is likely that microalgae can be a source of a new class of biological plant-protecting substances. Algal polysaccharides are also of pharmacological importance. Moreover they are used in cosmetics production. In Germany, food production and distribution companies have started serious activities to market functional food with microalgae and cyanobacteria. Examples are pasta, bread, yogurt and soft drinks.

Moreover the floristic study is the most important field and the fundamental to study other branches of algal biology such as ecology,

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