

Original Research Article

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Structure and Diversity of Phytoplankton Community in Taabo lake, Côte d'Ivoire

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ABSTRACT

Phytoplankton communities are widely used as indicators of trophic status and eutrophication in freshwater ecosystems. This is particularly true for tropical reservoirs, which are strongly influenced by seasonal and human activities. The present study examined the structure, diversity, and spatial and temporal dynamics of phytoplankton communities in Taabo lake (Côte d'Ivoire). Sampling was conducted over a one-year period, from November 2017 to October 2018. Five sampling sites were monitored during contrasting four seasons. Phytoplankton composition, abundance, and environmental variables were simultaneously assessed. A total of 242 phytoplankton taxa belonging to seven phyla were identified. Chlorophyta represented the most taxonomically diverse phyla. Despite the high taxonomic richness, phytoplankton composition showed strong similarity among sites. In contrast, phytoplankton abundance was largely dominated by Cyanoprokaryota throughout the study period. The most abundant species were *Pseudanabaena limnetica* and *Microcystis aeruginosa*. Phytoplankton densities increased markedly during the rainy seasons, coinciding with higher concentrations of nitrogen and phosphorus. Diversity and evenness indices were significantly lower at sites (S1 and S2) affected by fish farming activities. This pattern reflected the dominance of a few opportunistic Cyanoprokaryota species under nutrient-enriched conditions. Redundancy Analysis demonstrated that seasonal variations in nutrient availability, conductivity, lake depth, and water transparency were the main factors structuring phytoplankton communities. Overall, the results indicate that Taabo lake exhibits clear symptoms of eutrophication. Nutrient enrichment, combined with seasonal hydrological dynamics, strongly controls phytoplankton structure and promotes Cyanoprokaryota dominance.

Keywords

Phytoplankton;
Eutrophication;
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enrichment;
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Tropical reservoir

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Introduction

Phytoplankton represents the foundation of aquatic food webs and plays a key role in biogeochemical cycles and primary production in freshwater ecosystems (Naselli-Flores and Padisák, 2023). Because of their rapid growth rates and sensitivity to changes in nutrient availability, phytoplankton communities are widely recognized as reliable indicators of trophic status and eutrophication processes (Van Meerssche and Pinckney, 2019). Variations in phytoplankton composition, abundance, and diversity are closely associated with nutrient enrichment, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus inputs, which can lead to shifts in community structure and the dominance of opportunistic or bloom-forming taxa (Zhou *et al.*, 2018).

In tropical reservoirs, eutrophication is often exacerbated by intense seasonal rainfall, high temperatures, and prolonged water residence times, which together enhance nutrient loading and internal recycling (Kouassi *et al.*, 2007; Winton *et al.*, 2019). Agricultural runoff, domestic wastewater, and erosion from surrounding catchments contribute substantial amounts of dissolved and particulate nutrients, promoting phytoplankton proliferation and, in some cases, harmful algal blooms (Wurtsbaugh *et al.*, 2019). These processes may result in reduced water transparency, oxygen depletion, and alterations of ecosystem functioning, ultimately affecting fisheries and water uses (Kim *et al.*, 2023).

Taabo lake, located in central Côte d'Ivoire, is a multipurpose artificial lake of major socio-economic importance. However, the reservoir is subjected to increasing nutrient inputs from agricultural activities, urban settlements, and riverine inflows within its watershed (Aliko *et al.*, 2010; N'guessan *et al.*, 2022). Previous investigations in West African reservoirs have highlighted strong relationships between nutrient

concentrations and phytoplankton dominance patterns, often characterized by the proliferation of cyanobacteria and other eutrophication-tolerant groups (Adon *et al.*, 2011; Attoungbre *et al.*, 2019; Grogga *et al.*, 2019). Nevertheless, existing information on the influence of nutrient enrichment on phytoplankton structure and diversity in the Taabo lake warrants re-evaluation more than a decade after the study conducted by Grogga *et al.* (2014).

The present study aims to assess the structure, diversity, and spatial and temporal dynamics of the phytoplankton community in Taabo lake. Specifically, this study aims to: (i) characterize the waters of the Taabo Reservoir based on physico-chemical parameters; (ii) analyze phytoplankton communities in terms of composition and abundance; and (iii) determine the influence of environmental factors on these phytoplankton communities.

Materials and Methods

Study area and sampling sites

Located in central Côte d'Ivoire (6°25'-6°56' N; 5°07'-5°33' W), Taabo Lake (Figure .1) covers an area of 69 km², has an average depth of 16 m (maximum depth 30 m), and exhibits a water residence time of approximately 49.2 days (Kouassi *et al.*, 2007). The climate is characterized by four seasons (two rainy seasons and two dry seasons). The rainy seasons are represented by a long rainy season (LRS) from April to July and a short rainy season (SRS) from October to November. The two dry seasons are represented by a long dry season (LDS) from December to March and a short dry season (SDS) from August to September (Kouassi *et al.*, 2013). The mean annual precipitation varies from 1100 to 1600 mm, and the mean annual air temperature ranges between 24.5 °C and 34 °C (Aliko *et al.*, 2010).

Table.1 Coordinates and characteristics of the sampling sites in Taabo lake (2017-2018, Côte d'Ivoire)

Sampling sites	Latitude (N)	Longitude (W)	Mean Depth (m)	Characteristics of the sampling sites
St1	06°15'46.6"	05°04'57.4"	2.8	Urban area of the reservoir, cattle farming on the bank, agriculture, bathing and washing activities
St2	06°15'42.5"	05°04'59.3"	8	Fish farming operation into the reservoir
St3	06°15'06.3"	05°05'11.2"	19	Fishing area
St4	06°13'00.8"	05°06'13.7"	8.5	Fishing area
St5	06°12'59.2"	05°06'14.6"	3.2	Rural zone of the reservoir, fishing area, agriculture

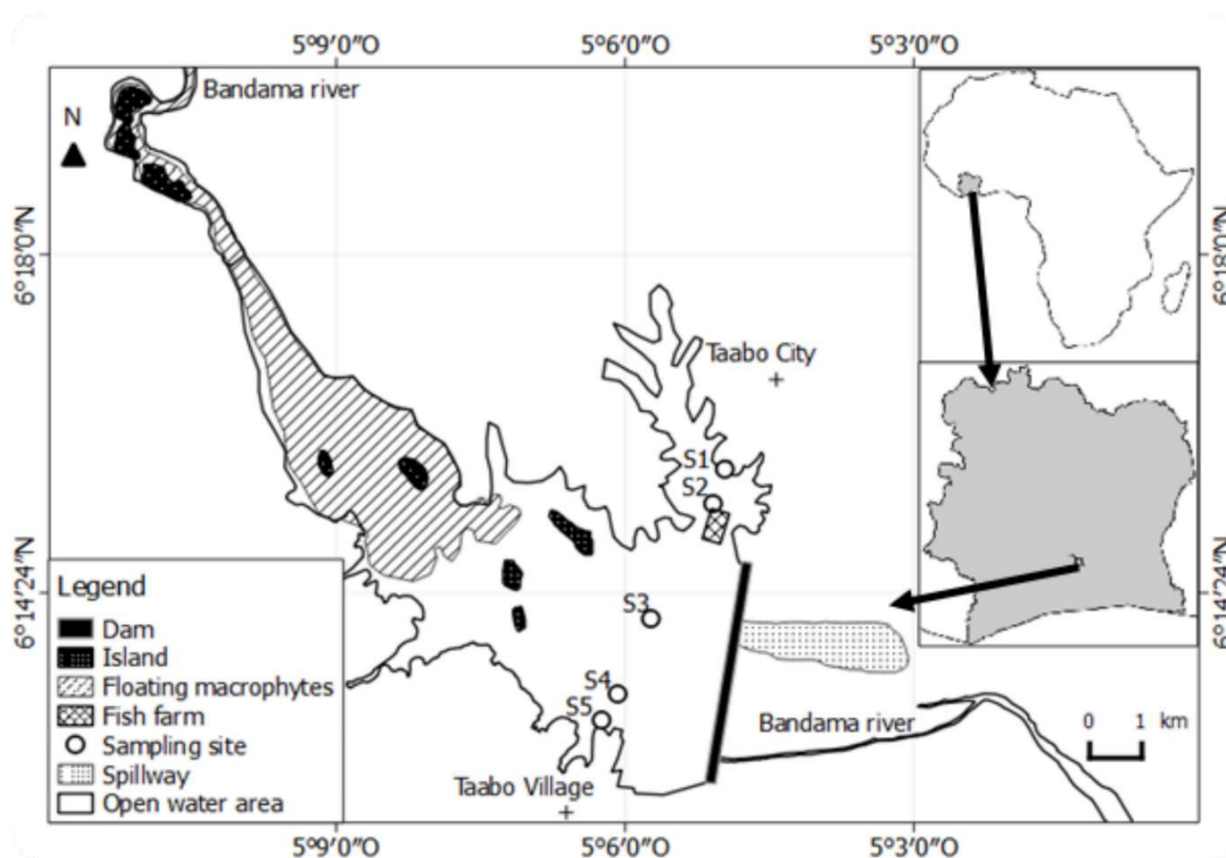


Figure.1 Map showing the location of sampling sites in Taabo lake (Côte d'Ivoire): S1-S5 = sampling sites

A year long survey was carried out from November 2017 to October 2018 at five sampling sites distributed along a seven kilometre transect in the open waters of the reservoir. Sampling site characteristics are summarized in Table.1. Samples were collected every 45 days.

Phytoplankton sampling

Phytoplankton samples were obtained by taking two vertical hauls (0.5 m and 1 m) using a Van Dorn bottle at each sampling point. Samples were fixed with solution formaldehyde at 5%. Estimation of species composition of phytoplankton samples was carried out by examining several small fractions of the samples under microscope (Zeiss). The component organisms were identified as far as possible using identification manuals (Ouattara *et al.* 2000, John *et al.* 2002; Cocquyt, 1998; Ten-Hage *et al.*, 2007; Zongo *et al.*, 2011,). Additionally, all species names were checked for current status and names in the database of AlgaeBase (Guiry and Guiry, 2016).

Phytoplankton were counted (cell) according to Utermöhl

(1958) using an inverted microscope (OPTIKA) at 200X/400X magnification by following the standard NF EN 15204 (2006).

Environmental variables

Selected physical and chemical parameters (temperature, conductivity, pH, dissolved oxygen, transparency, nutrients) were measured in order to characterize the water quality of this limited geographical sampling area together with the phytoplankton at each site. Water parameters were followed at two depths (0.5 and 1 m). Water temperature and conductivity were measured using a conductivity meter, WTW COND 340-i model and pH with a pHmeter, HANNA, Hi 991001 model. Dissolved oxygen, water depth and water transparency were measured with respectively an oximeter HANNA (Hi 9146) model, a portable sounder ECHOTEST model and a 20 cm diameter black and white Secchi disk.

Water nutrient concentrations were measured with a spectrophotometer Model HACH DR 2010. Samples for

Total nitrogen (TN) and Total phosphorus (TP) analysis were determined using standard method NF EN ISO 10304-1 (2009).

Data analysis

Phytoplankton community structure was described through taxonomic richness, frequency of occurrence, Sorensen similarity index, Shannon-Weaver diversity index, and Pielou evenness index. The Sorensen similarity index was used to assess phytoplankton taxonomic similarity between sampling sites. The frequency of occurrence (FO) of each specie was calculated using the following formula: $FO = (Ni/Nts) \times 100$; with Ni = number of samples containing a given specie i and Nts = total number of samples collected. The FO was used to classify taxa following Dajoz (2000): $FO > 50$ (common taxa); $25 < FO < 50$ (occasional taxa); $FO \leq 25$ (rare taxa).

Differences in phytoplankton abundance, Shannon-Weaver diversity index, Pielou evenness index and environmental parameters between sampling sites and sampling months were evaluated using Kruskal-Wallis test, a non parametric analysis of variance, followed by Mann-Whitney test. Before performing comparison test, normality of data was checked by Shapiro test ($p > 0.05$ at all sampling sites). Analyses were conducted using Rstudio R 3.1.3 (R Core Team, 2013). Statistical analyses were performed at a level of significance of $p < 0.05$.

In order to assess relationships between phytoplankton community and environmental variables, Redundancy Analysis (RDA) was performed based on the data matrix of phytoplankton densities. Phytoplankton densities and environmental variables were $\log_{10}(X+1)$ transformed prior to analysis. Monte Carlo permutation test (499 permutations) were done so as to identify a subset of measured environmental variables, which exerted significant and independent influences on phytoplankton distribution at $p < 0.05$ (Van Tongeren *et al.*, 1992). RDA was performed using CANOCO 4.5.

Results and Discussion

Environmental variables

The spatio-temporal variations of the environmental parameters recorded in this study are shown in Figure. 2. Water depth fluctuated between the dry (LDS: Jan-Feb;

SDS: Sep) and rainy seasons (LRS: Apr, Jun, Jul; SRS: Oct-Nov). It reached a maximum of 22 m at S3. Water temperature peaked in January (31 °C) and declined to 26.9 °C by October. Conductivity ranged from 71.9 $\mu S\ cm^{-1}$ (S4, LDS) to 134 $\mu S\ cm^{-1}$ (S2, SRS). Dissolved oxygen varied inversely, from 3.7 $mg\ L^{-1}$ (S1, LRS) to 7.1 $mg\ L^{-1}$ (S3, SRS). pH exceeded 9 in the littoral zones of S1 and S2 during the SDS. It dropped to 6.5 in the SRS, corresponding with minimal transparency (0.2 m). Nutrient concentrations increased during the rainy season. Total nitrogen (TN) and total phosphorus (TP) peaked at 0.38 $mg\ L^{-1}$ and 0.84 $mg\ L^{-1}$, respectively, at S2 in October. Despite slight variations in depth, no significant differences were observed among sites (Kruskal-Wallis test, $P > 0.05$), whereas all parameters showed significant seasonal variations (Mann-Whitney test, $P < 0.05$).

Qualitative analysis of phytoplankton populations in Lake Taabo

A total of 242 phytoplankton taxa were identified in Lake Taabo (Table.2). These taxa belong to 104 genera, 49 families, 26 orders, 14 classes, and seven phyla (Cyanoprokaryota, Euglenophyta, Chlorophyta, Bacillariophyta, Dinophyta, Chrysophyta, and Xanthophyta). Chlorophyta was the most diverse phylum, with 114 taxa, representing over 47% of the phytoplankton community. It was followed by Euglenophyta (54 taxa), Cyanoprokaryota (38 taxa), and Bacillariophyta (24 taxa). Xanthophyta (6 taxa), Dinophyta (4 taxa), and Chrysophyta (2 taxa) were poorly represented. Chlorophyta comprised six orders: Desmidiaceae (2 families), Chlamydomonadales (1 family), Chlorellales (2 families), Sphaeropleales (9 families), Spirogyrales (1 family), and Ulotrichales (1 family). The most diverse families were Desmidiaceae and Scenedesmaceae, each with 30 taxa.

Phytoplankton composition was similar across sites. Species richness varied among sites, ranging from 205 taxa at S3 to 216 taxa at S5. Many taxa (178) were common to all sites. The phytoplankton community inventory in Lake Taabo revealed a high taxonomic similarity among sites. A total of 178 taxa were found to be common across the surveyed sites. Several phytoplankton species were restricted to specific sites. *Pediastrum simplex*, *Tetrademus obliquus*, *Selenodictyum brasiliensis*, and *Spondylosium tetragonum* occurred only at the coastal sites (S1 and S5). *Euastrum platycerum*, *Euglena gaumei*, and *Closterium*

jenneri var. *cynthia* were confined to S4 and S5. *Monoraphidium convuluptum* and *Trachelomonas acanthophora* were exclusive to S4, while *Tetraedron tumidulum*, *Oedogonium* sp., *Trachelomonas pulchra*, and *Euglena rubra* occurred only at S2. *Spirogyra* sp., *Cosmarium vexatum*, *Micrasterias ceylanica*, and *Pleurotaenium cylindricum* were characteristic of S5. Some taxa, including *Mallomonas* sp. (S1 and S2), *Trachelomonas dastuguei* var. *dastuguei* f. *africana* (S3 and S4), and *Trachelomonas bernaardinensis* var. *africana* (S2 and S5), were common to multiple sites. Phytoplankton composition across the sites indicated that Chlorophyta phyla was the most abundant group, representing 44 - 47% of the community. This was followed by Euglenophyta phyla, with proportions ranging from 20% to 23%. Bacillariophyta (10-12%) and Cyanoprokaryota (16-17%) were less abundant. Other phyla collectively accounted for only 5 - 6% of the diversity.

The proportion of common taxa (FO > 50 %) are the most numerous at all the sites with percentages ranging between 44.3% (S1) and 65.9% (S3) (Table.3). For the occasional taxa (25 < FO < 50 %), the highest proportion (27.3%) was observed at site S4 and S5, whereas the lowest proportion (18.5 %) was noted at site S3. Regarding the rare taxa (FO ≤ 25 %), the highest proportion was noted at site S1 (29.5 %), and the lowest proportion was observed at site S3 (15.6 %).

The highest values (more than 80 %) of Sorensen similarity index between all the sampled sites highlight the great homogeneity in phytoplankton community among the sites (Table.4).

Quantitative analysis of phytoplankton populations in Taabo lake

Spatio-temporal variations of densities showed a similar trend at all sites during this study (Figure. 3). Phytoplankton abundance was low at all sites between January and February, below 250×10^5 cells L⁻¹. It gradually increased to higher densities in July. Values ranged from 300×10^5 cells L⁻¹ at S5 to 650×10^5 cells L⁻¹ at S2. A slight decrease was observed in September, with values below 450×10^5 cells L⁻¹. Densities then increased until October, reaching their annual maximum. They ranged from 650×10^5 cells L⁻¹ at S3 to 2.000×10^5 cells L⁻¹ at S2. No significant differences were observed between sites S1, S3, S4, and S5 (Mann-Whitney test; p

> 0.05). However, the abundances observed at site S2 were significantly higher (Mann-Whitney test; p = 0.004). The Mann-Whitney test (p = 0.003) shows that phytoplankton densities are significantly higher during the rainy season (GSP; PSP) than during the long dry season.

The relative abundances of the phytoplankton phyla (Figure. 4) showed that Cyanoprokaryota were the most dominant at all sites. They accounted for over 60% of the total density during the sampling periods. Across sites, *Pseudanabaena limnetica* (41-79%) and *Microcystis aeruginosa* (7-22%) were the numerically dominant species each month.

Spatial variations in the Shannon diversity index and the Piélou equitability index

Figure. 5 shows the diversity and evenness indices of phytoplankton communities at the five sites in Lake Taabo. Median diversity values ranged from 1.1 bits.cell⁻¹ at S1 to 1.7 bits.cell⁻¹ at S4. Evenness values also varied among sites, ranging from 0.26 at S2 to 0.37 at S4. Diversity and evenness indices at S1 and S2 were significantly lower than those at S3, S4, and S5 (Mann-Whitney test; p = 0.025).

Taxa relationships with environmental variables

The relationships between environmental variables and the abundance of the main phytoplankton taxa were examined using redundancy analysis (RDA). Sixteen (16) phytoplankton taxa accounting for more than 5% of the total phytoplankton abundance were included in the analysis. The RDA explained 77% of the total variance in the data along the first two ordination axes (Figure. 6).

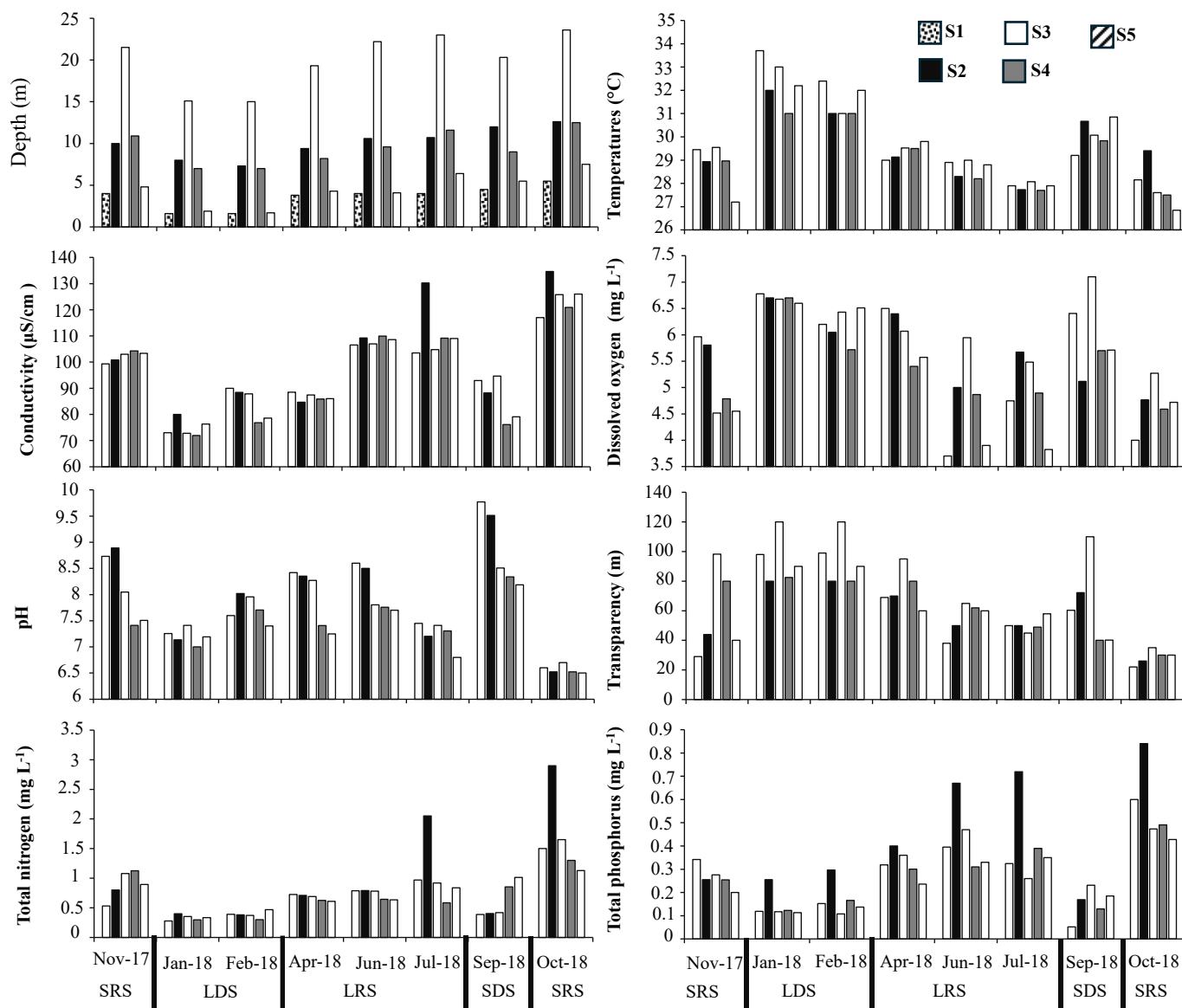
The first axis, which accounted for 65% of the variance, reflected a clear seasonal gradient, with samples from the rainy seasons clustering on the positive side and those from the dry seasons on the negative side. Several phytoplankton taxa were strongly and positively correlated with this axis, including *Aulacoseira granulata* var. *angustissima*, *Aulacoseira granulata* f. *spiralis*, *Aulacoseira granulata*, *Cosmarium baileyi*, *Eudorina elegans*, *Eudorina unicocca*, *Peridiniopsis armebeensis*, *Microcystis aeruginosa*, *Peridinium cinctum*, and *Pseudanabaena limnetica*. The proliferation of these taxa was associated with increased lake depth, total phosphorus, total nitrogen, and conductivity,

together with decreased dissolved oxygen, temperature, and water transparency.

The second axis explained 12% of the variance and was positively correlated with *Coelastrum indicum*, *Glenodinium* sp., *Pandorina morum*, *Phormidium* sp.,

Nitzschia sp., *Ulnaria acus*, and *Ulnaria ulna*. The proliferation of these taxa was favored by elevated pH values. In contrast, the positioning of samples near the origin of the ordination axes indicates that none of the measured abiotic parameters significantly discriminated the samples within this group.

Figure.2 Spatio-temporal variations in physical and chemical variables of Taabo lake (2017-2018):



Apr: April; Jun: June; Sept: September; Oct: October; Nov: November; LRS: long rainy season; SDS: short dry season; SRS: short rainy season; LDS: long dry season

Table.2 Taxonomic composition and the frequency of occurrence (FO) of phytoplankton recorded in Taabo lake from November 2017 to October 2018 (Côte d'Ivoire): * = rare taxa ; *² = Occasional taxa ; *³ = Common taxa ; Acro = Acronyms

Phytoplankton taxa	Acro	Sampling sites					Phytoplankton taxa	Acro	Sampling sites				
		S1	S2	S3	S4	S5			S1	S2	S3	S4	S5
Bacillariophyta							Bacillariophyta (Next)						
Bacillariophyceae							Rhopalodiaceae						
Bacillariales							<i>Epithemia turgida</i> (Ehrenberg) Kützing	Eptu	*	* ³	* ²	*	* ²
Bacillariaceae							Surirellales						
<i>Nitzschia</i> sp. 1	Nsp1	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	Surirellaceae						
<i>Nitzschia</i> sp. 2	Nsp2	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	<i>Surirella</i> sp.	Susp	*	*	*	*	* ²
<i>Nitzschia</i> sp. 3	Nsp3	*	* ³	* ³	* ²	* ³	Thalassiosiphysales						
<i>Tryblionella victoriae</i> Grunow	Trvi	* ²	*	* ²	*	*	Catenulaceae						
Cymbellales							<i>Amphora commutata</i> Grunow	Amco	* ²	*	*	*	*
Cymbellaceae							Coscinodiscophyceae						
<i>Cymbella cucumis</i> Schmidt	Cycu		* ²	* ³	* ²	* ²	Aulacoseirales						
Gomphonemataceae							Aulacoseiraceae						
<i>Encyonema silesiacum</i> (Bleisch) Mann	Ensi	* ²	* ²	* ³	*	* ²	<i>Aulacoseira granulata</i> (Ehrenberg) Simonsen	Augr	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³
<i>Gomphonema gracile</i> Ehrenberg	Gogr	* ³	* ²	* ³	* ²	*	<i>Aulacoseira granulata</i> f. <i>spiralis</i> (Hustedt) Czarnecki	Augs	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³
Eunotiales							<i>Aulacoseira granulata</i> var. <i>angustissima</i> (Müller) Simonsen	Auga	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³
Eunotiaceae							Mediophyceae						
<i>Eunotia</i> sp.	Eusp	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	Chaetocerotales						
Licmophorales							Chaetocerotaceae						
Ulnariaceae							<i>Acanthoceras zachariasii</i> (Brun) Simonsen	Acza	*	* ²	*		
<i>Ulnaria acus</i> (Kützing) Aboal	Ulac	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	Chlorophyta						
<i>Ulnaria ulna</i> (Nitzsch) Compère	Ulul	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	Chlorophyceae						
Naviculales							Chlamydomonadales						
Naviculaceae							Volvocaceae						
<i>Gyrosigma acuminatum</i> (Kützing) Rabenhorst	Gyac	*	*	* ²	* ²	* ²	<i>Eudorina elegans</i> Ehrenberg	Euel	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³
<i>Navicula</i> sp.	Nasp	* ³	* ²	* ²	*	* ³	<i>Eudorina unicocca</i> Smith	Euun	* ²	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ²
Pinnulariaceae							<i>Pandorina morum</i> (Müller) Bory	Pamo	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³
<i>Pinnularia brauniana</i> (Grunow) Studnicka	Pibr	* ³	* ³	*	*	* ²	<i>Volvox africana</i> West	voaf	* ²	*	* ²	*	*
<i>Pinnularia divergens</i> Smith	Pidi	*	* ²	* ²	* ²	* ²	<i>Volvox aureus</i> Ehrenberg	voau	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ²	* ³
<i>Pinnularia mesolepta</i> (Ehrenberg) Smith	Pime	* ²	* ³	* ³	*	* ³	Sphaeropleales						
<i>Pinnularia</i> sp.	Pips	* ²	* ³	* ³	* ²	* ³	Cylindrocapsaceae						
Sellaphoraceae							<i>Fusola viridis</i> Snow	Fuvi	* ²	* ³	* ³	* ²	* ²
<i>Sellaphora pupula</i> (Kützing) Mereschkovsky	Sepu	* ²	* ²	* ²	* ²	* ²	Hydrodictyceae						
Rhopalodiales							<i>Lacunastrum gracillimum</i> (West & West) Mc-Manus	Lagr	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³
							<i>Monactinus simplex</i> (Meyen) Corda	Mosi	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³
							<i>Parapediastrium biradiatum</i> (Meyen) Hegewald	Pabi	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³

Table.2 Continued

Phytoplankton taxa	Acro	Sampling sites					Phytoplankton taxa	Acro	Sampling sites				
		S1	S2	S3	S4	S5			S1	S2	S3	S4	S5
Chlorophyta (Next)							Chlorophyta (Next)						
<i>Pediastrum duplex</i> Meyen	Pedu	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	<i>Desmodesmus spinulatus</i> (Biswas) Hegewald	Desp	*2	*3	*3	*3	*3
<i>Pediastrum simplex</i> Meyen	Pesi	*				*2	<i>Dimorphococcus lunatus</i> Braun	Dilu	*2	*2	*3	*2	*2
<i>Sorastrum americanum</i> (Bohlin) Schmidle	Soam	*	*2	*	*		<i>Hariotina reticulata</i> Dangeard	Hare	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3
<i>Stauridium tetras</i> (Ehrenberg) Hegewald	Sttt	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	<i>Pectinodesmus regularis</i> (Svirenko) Hegewald, Wolf, Friedl et Krienitz	Pere	*3	*3	*3	*	*3
<i>Tetraedron arthrodesmiforme</i> Woloszynska	Tear	*3	*2	*2	*2	*2	<i>Scenedesmus bicaudatus</i> (Hansgirg) Chodat	Scbi	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3
<i>Tetraedron gracile</i> (Reinsch) Hansgirg	Tegr	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	<i>Scenedesmus communis</i> Hegewald	Scco	*3	*3	*3	*	*3
<i>Tetraedron minimun</i> cf. <i>apiculatum</i> (Reinsch) De-Toni	Temi	*	*3	*3	*3	*3	<i>Scenedesmus naegeli</i> Brébisson	sena	*		*	*3	*
<i>Tetraedron triangulare</i> Korshikov	Tetr	*	*3	*3	*3	*2	<i>Scenedesmus obtusus</i> Meyen	Scob	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3
<i>Tetraedron tumidulum</i> (Reinsch) Hansgirg	Tetu		*				<i>Scenedesmus obtusus</i> f. <i>disciformis</i> (Chodat) Compère	Scod	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3
Neochloridaceae							<i>Selenodictyum brasiliensis</i> Uherkovich & Schmidt	Sebr	*				*2
<i>Golenkinia radiata</i> Chodat	Gora	*2	*3	*3	*2	*2	<i>Tetrademus bernardii</i> (Smith) Wynne	Tebe	*2	*3	*3	*3	*3
<i>Golenkinia</i> sp.	Gosp	*2		*		*2	<i>Tetrademus dimorphus</i> (Turpin) Wynne	Tedi	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3
Nephrocytiaceae							<i>Tetrademus lagerheimii</i> Wynne & Guiry	Tela	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3
<i>Nephrocytium agardhianum</i> Nägeli	Neag	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	<i>Tetrademus obliquus</i> (Turpin) Wynne	Teob	*2				*
<i>Nephrocytium lunatum</i> West	Nelu	*	*2	*	*	*2	<i>Tetrastrum elegans</i> Playfair	Teel		*	*	*	
Schroederiaceae							<i>Tetrastrum heteracanthum</i> (Nordstedt) Chodat	Tehe	*2	*2	*2	*3	*2
<i>Schroederia nitzschoides</i> (West) Korchikov	Scni	*	*3	*3	*3	*3	<i>Tetrastrum triangulare</i> (Chodat) Bock & Krienitz	Tetr	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3
<i>Schroederia setigera</i> (Schröder) Lemmermann	Scse	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	<i>Westella</i> sp.	Wesp	*2	*	*	*	*2
Scenedesmaceae							<i>Willea crucifera</i> (Wolle) John, Wynne & Tsarenko	Wicr	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3
<i>Acutodesmus acutiformis</i> (Schröder) Tsarenko et John	Acac	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	<i>Willea rectangularis</i> (Braun) John, Wynne & Tsarenko	Wire	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3
<i>Coelastrum cambricum</i> Archer	Coca	*	*3	*3	*3	*3	Selanastraceae						
<i>Coelastrum indicum</i> Turner	Coin			*		*	<i>Ankistrodesmus arcuatus</i> Korshikov	Anar	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3
<i>Coelastrum microporum</i> Nägeli	Comi	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	<i>Ankistrodesmus bernadai</i> Komárek	Anbe	*	*2	*2	*2	*
<i>Desmodesmus abundans</i> (Kirchner) Hegewald	Deab	*3	*3	*3	*	*3	<i>Ankistrodesmus falcatus</i> (Cordat) Ralfs	Anfa	*		*		*
<i>Desmodesmus armatus</i> var. <i>longispina</i> (Chodat) Hegewald	Dear					*	<i>Ankistrodesmus fusiformis</i> Cordat	Anfu	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3
<i>Desmodesmus brasiliensis</i> (Bohlin) Hegewald	Debr	*2	*3	*2	*2	*2	<i>Ankistrodesmus spiralis</i> (Turner) Lemmermann	Ansr	*3	*	*3	*2	*3
<i>Desmodesmus denticulatus</i> (Lagerheim) An, Friedl & Hegewald	Dede	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	<i>Kirchneriella lunaris</i> (Kirchner) Mobius	Kilu	*2	*3	*3	*3	*3
<i>Desmodesmus opoliensis</i> (Richter) Hegewald	Deop	*3	*3	*3	*	*3	<i>Kirchneriella obesa</i> (West) West & West	Kiob	*	*2		*	*

Table.2 Continued

Phytoplankton taxa	Acro	Sampling sites					Phytoplankton taxa	Acro	Sites				
		S1	S2	S3	S4	S5			S1	S2	S3	S4	S5
Chlorophyta (Next)							Chlorophyta (Next)						
<i>Messastrum gracile</i> (Reinsch) Garcia	Megr	*	*3	*3	*3		<i>Closterium jenneri</i> var. <i>cynthia</i> (De-Notaris) Petlovany	Clej				*	*
<i>Monoraphidium convolutum</i> (Corda) Komárková & Legnerová	Moco				*		<i>Closterium kuetzingii</i> Brébisson	Clku	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Monoraphidium griffithii</i> (Berkeley) Komárková & Legnerová	Mogr	*2	*3	*2	*2	*2	<i>Closterium leibleinii</i> Kützing ex Ralfs	Clle				*	*
<i>Selenastrum bibrainum</i> Reinsch	Sebi	*2	*2	*3	*2		<i>Closterium lineatum</i> Ehrenberg ex Ralfs	Clli	*	*2	*3	*3	*2
Sphaeropleaceae							<i>Closterium strigosum</i> Brébisson	Clst	*2	*	*	*2	*2
<i>Polyedriopsis spinulosa</i> (Schmidle) Schmidle	Posp	*2	*2	*3	*	*3	<i>Closterium subulatum</i> (Kützing) Kützing Brébisson	Clsu	*		*2	*	*
Radiococcaceae							Desmidiaceae						
<i>Gloeocystis</i> sp.	Gcsp	*	*3	*3	*3	*	<i>Actinotaenium capax</i> (Joshua) Teiling	Acca	*	*			*
Oedogoniales							<i>Cosmarium Baileyi</i> Wolle	Coba	*	*3		*	*2
Oedogoniaceae							<i>Cosmarium brebissonii</i> Meneghini ex Ralfs	Cobr	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3
<i>Oedogonium</i> sp.	Oesp		*2			*	<i>Cosmarium contractum</i> Kirchner	Coco	*3	*	*3	*3	*3
Trebouxiophyceae							<i>Cosmarium granatum</i> var. <i>pyramidale</i> Schmidle	Cogp	*			*	*
<i>Crucigenia tetrapedia</i> (Kirchner) Kuntze	Crte	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	<i>Cosmarium lundellii</i> var. <i>ellipticum</i> West & West	Colu	*	*2	*2		*
Chlorellales							<i>Cosmarium quadrum</i> Lundell	Coqu	*2		*	*2	
Chlorellaceae							<i>Cosmarium spinuliferum</i> West & West	Cosp	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3
<i>Actinastrum gracillimum</i> Smith	Acgr	*2	*2	*	*	*	<i>Cosmarium vexatum</i> West	Cove					*
<i>Actinastrum hantzschii</i> Lagerheim	Acha	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	<i>Euastrum binale</i> Ehrenberg ex. Ralfs	Eubi	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3
<i>Golenkiniopsis</i> sp.	Gosp			*		*	<i>Euastrum denticulatum</i> Gay	Eude	*	*	*		
<i>Hindakia tetrachotoma</i> (Printz) Bock, Pröschold & Krienitz	Hite	*2	*3	*2	*3	*3	<i>Euastrum platycerum</i> Reinsch	Eupl				*	*
<i>Mucidosphaerium puchellum</i> (Wood) Bock, Proschold & Krienitz	Mupu	*3	*3	*	*3	*3	<i>Micrasterias ceylanica</i> Fritsch	Mice					*
Oocystaceae							<i>Pleurotaenium cylindricum</i> (Turner) Schmidle	Pcly					*
<i>Oocystis borgei</i> Snow	Oobo	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	<i>Sphaerosoma laeve</i> (Nordstedt) Thomasson	Spla	*2			*2	
<i>Oocystis elliptica</i> West	Ooel	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	<i>Spondylosium tetragonum</i> West & West	Spte	*				*
Ulvophyceae							<i>Staurastrum barbaricum</i> West & West	stba	*2	*2	*3	*2	*2
Ulotrichales							<i>Staurastrum brachioprominens</i> Borgesen	Stbr	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3
Ulotrichaceae							<i>Staurastrum forficulatum</i> var. <i>minus</i> (Fritsch & Rich) Grönblad et Scott	Stfo	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3
<i>Ulothrix</i> sp.	Ulsf	*					<i>Staurastrum gracile</i> var. <i>elongatum</i> West & West	Stgr	*2	*	*2	*2	*2
Zygnematophyceae							<i>Staurastrum leptocladum</i> var. <i>cornutum</i> Wille	Stle	*	*3	*3	*3	*3
Desmidiales							<i>Staurastrum polymorphum</i> Brébisson	Stpo	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3
Closteriaceae													
<i>Closterium acutum</i> Brébisson	Clac	*	*3	*3	*2	*2							

Table.2 Continued

Phytoplankton taxons	Acro	Sampling sites					Phytoplankton taxa	Acro	Sampling sites				
		S1	S2	S3	S4	S5			S1	S2	S3	S4	S5
<u>Chlorophyta (Next)</u>							<u>Cyanoprokaryota (Next)</u>						
<i>Staurostrum pseudotetracerum</i> (Nordstedt) West & West	Stps	*	*	*	*	*	<i>Chroococcus minutus</i> (Kützing) Nägeli	Chmn	*	* ²		*	*
<i>Staurostrum subcornutum</i> De-Toni	Stsu	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ²	* ²	<i>Chroococcus turgidus</i> (Kützing) Nägeli	Chtu	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³
<i>Staurostrum subgracillimum</i> West & West	Stsg	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ²	Microcystaceae						
<i>Staurostrum teliferum</i> var. <i>gladiousum</i> (Turner) Coesel et Meesters	Sttg	* ²	* ³	*	* ²	* ³	<i>Anacystis</i> sp.	Ansp	* ²	*	* ²		
<i>Staurostrum tetracerum</i> Raifs ex Ralfs	Stte	* ²	* ³	* ³	* ²	* ²	<i>Microcystis aeruginosa</i> (Kützing) Kützing	Miae	*	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³
<i>Staurostrum volans</i> West & West	Stvo	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	<i>Microcystis wesenbergii</i> (Komárek) Komárek ex Komárek	Miwe	*	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³
<i>Staurodesmus subulatus</i> (Kützing) Croasdale	Stsu	* ²	* ³	* ³	* ²		Nostocales						
<i>Staurodesmus triangularis</i> (Lagerheim) Teiling	Stti	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³		Aphanizomenonaceae						
Spirogyrales							<i>Cylindrospermopsis raciborskii</i> (Woloszyska) Seenayya & Subbu Raju	Cyra	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	*
Spirogyraceae							<i>Dolichospermum affine</i> (Lemmermann) Wacklin et Komárek	Doaf	*			*	*
<i>Spirogyra</i> sp.	Spsp					*	<i>Dolichospermum circinale</i> (Rabenhorst ex Bornet & Flashault) Wacklin, Hoffmann & Komárek	Doci	* ²	* ²	* ²	* ²	* ²
<u>Chrysophyta</u>							<i>Dolichospermum flos aquae</i> (Rabenhorst ex Bornet & Flashault) Wacklin & Komárek	Dofl	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³
Chrysophyceae							Nostocaceae						
Chromulinales							<i>Anabaena planctonica</i> Brunnthaler	Anpl	*	* ³	* ³	* ²	* ²
Dinobryaceae							<i>Anabaena sphaerica</i> Bornet & Flashault	Ansh	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³
<i>Dinobryon sertularia</i> Ehrenberg	Dise		* ²	* ²	* ²	*	<i>Anabaena spiroides</i> (Woronichin) Elenkin-	Ansi	*	* ²	* ²	* ²	* ²
Synurophyceae							<i>Nostoc</i> sp.	Nosp	*	*	*		*
Synurales							Oscillatoriales						
Mallomonadaceae							Oscillatoriaceae						
<i>Mallomonas</i> sp.	Masp	* ²	*				<i>Oscillatoria limosa</i> Agardh ex Gomont	Osli		*		*	* ²
<u>Cyanoprokaryota</u>							<i>Oscillatoria princeps</i> Vaucher ex Gomont	Ospr				* ²	
Cyanophyceae							<i>Oscillatoria simplicissima</i> Gomont	Ossi	*				
Chroococcales							<i>Oscillatoria</i> sp. 1	Osp1	*	* ²	* ³	* ²	*
Aphanothecaceae							<i>Oscillatoria</i> sp. 2	Osp2	* ²	* ²	* ²	* ²	* ²
<i>Aphanothece</i> sp.	Apsp		* ²	*	*	*	Phormidiaceae						
Chroococcaceae							<i>Arthrospira</i> sp.	Arsp	*	* ²	* ³	* ²	* ²
<i>Chroococcus dispersus</i> (Keissler) Lemmermann	Chdi	*		*		* ²	<i>Phormidium</i> sp. 1	Psp1	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³
							<i>Phormidium</i> sp. 2	Psp2	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³	* ³

Table.2 Continued

Phytoplankton taxa	Acro	Sampling sites					Phytoplankton taxa	Acro	Sampling sites				
		S1	S2	S3	S4	S5			S1	S2	S3	S4	S5
Cyanoprokarvota (Next)							Dinophyta						
Synechococcales							Peridiniopsidaceae						
Coelosphaeriaceae							<i>Peridiniopsis armebeensis</i> Ten-Hage, Da & Couté	Pear	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3
<i>Coelomoron</i> sp.	Cosp	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	Euglenophyta						
<i>Coelosphaerium kuetzingianum</i> Nägeli	Coku	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	Euglenophyceae						
<i>Snowella lacustris</i> (Chodat) Komárek & Hindák	Snla	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	Euglenales						
Merismopediaceae							Euglenaceae						
<i>Aphanocapsa elachista</i> West & West	Apel	*3	*3	*2	*3	*3	<i>Euglena gaumei</i> Allorge & Lefevre	Euga			*	*2	
<i>Aphanocapsa grevillei</i> (Berkeley) Rabenhorst	Apgr	*3	*3	*2	*2	*3	<i>Euglena proxima</i> (Dangeard) Bennett & Triemer	Eupr	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3
<i>Aphanocapsa holsatica</i> (Lemmermann) Cronberg & Komárek	Apho	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	<i>Euglena rubra</i> Hardy	Euru		*			
<i>Aphanocapsa incerta</i> (Lemmermann) Cronberg & Komárek	Apin	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	<i>Euglena texta</i> (Dujardin) Hübner	Eute	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3
<i>Limnocoocus limneticus</i> (Lemmermann) Komárková, Komárek & Zap	Lili	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	<i>Strombomonas acuminata</i> var. <i>deflandreana</i> Conrad	Stac	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3
<i>Merismopedia elegans</i> Braun ex Kützing	Meel	*2	*2	*	*2	*2	<i>Strombomonas ensifera</i> (Daday) Deflandre	Sten	*			*2	*2
<i>Merismopedia glauca</i> (Ehrenberg) Kützing	Megl	*	*3	*3	*3	*3	<i>Strombomonas gibberosa</i> (Playfair) Deflandre	Stgi	*	*2		*2	
<i>Merismopedia</i> sp.	Mesp	*2	*2	*3	*3	*2	<i>Strombomonas maxima</i> (Skvortzov) Deflandre	Stma	*		*		*2
<i>Merismopedia tenuissima</i> Lemmermann	Mete	*3	*3	*3	*2	*2	<i>Strombomonas</i> sp.	Stsp		*	*2	*	*
<i>Synechocystis</i> sp.	Sysp	*		*		*	<i>Strombomonas triquetra</i> (Playfair) Deflandre	Sttr	*2	*2	*3	*3	*2
Pseudanabaenaceae							<i>Strombomonas verrucosa</i> (Daday) Deflandre	Stve	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3
<i>Pseudanabaena limnetica</i> (Lemmermann) Komárek	Psli	*	*3	*3	*3	*3	<i>Trachelomonas acanthophora</i> Stokes	Trac				*2	
Synechococcaceae							<i>Trachelomonas armata</i> (Ehrenberg) Stein	Trar		*	*	*	
<i>Synechococcus elongatus</i> (Nägeli) Nägeli	Syel	*2	*3	*2	*2	*2	<i>Trachelomonas bernardinensis</i> var. <i>africana</i> Deflandre	Trbe		*			*
Dinophyta							<i>Trachelomonas</i> cf. <i>allorgei</i> Deflandre	Trcf		*2	*2	*2	*2
Dinophyceae							<i>Trachelomonas conica</i> Playfair	Trco	*2	*	*	*	*2
Peridinales							<i>Trachelomonas crebea</i> var. <i>spinosa</i> Kellicott	Trcr					*
Peridiniaceae							<i>Trachelomonas curta</i> Cunha	Trcu	*	*3	*2	*2	*3
<i>Bagredinium crenulatum</i> (Couté & Iltis) Da, Zongo, Mascarell & Couté	Bacr	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	<i>Trachelomonas dastuguei</i> var. <i>dastuguei</i> f. <i>africana</i> Couté & Iltis	Trda			*	*	
<i>Glenodinium</i> sp.	Glsp	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	<i>Trachelomonas dubia</i> Svirenko	Trdu	*	*3	*3	*3	*3
<i>Peridinium cinctum</i> (Müller) Ehrenberg	Peci	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	<i>Trachelomonas duplex</i> (Deflandre) Couté & Tell	Trdp	*	*	*	*	
							<i>Trachelomonas dybowskii</i> Drezepolski	Trdy	*2	*2	*2	*2	*2

Table.2 end

Phytoplankton taxa	Acro	Sampling sites					Phytoplankton taxa	Acro	Sampling sites				
		S1	S2	S3	S4	S5			S1	S2	S3	S4	S5
<u>Euglenophyta</u> (Next)							<u>Euglenophyta</u> (Next)						
<i>Trachelomonas hispida</i> var. <i>coronata</i> Lemmermann	Trhc	*	*3	*3	*3	*3	<i>Phacus longicauda</i> (Ehrenberg) Dujardin	Phlo	*3	*3	*3	*	*3
<i>Trachelomonas hispida</i> (Perty) Stein	Trhi	*3	*3	*3	*	*3	<i>Phacus onyx</i> Pochmann	Phon	*2	*2	*2	*2	*
<i>Trachelomonas hispida</i> var. <i>duplex</i> Deflandre	Trhd	*	*3	*3	*2	*3	<i>Phacus orbicularis</i> Hübner	Phor	*3	*3	*3	*	*3
<i>Trachelomonas hispida</i> var. <i>hispida</i> Deflandre	Trhh	*2	*2	*3	*	*3	<i>Phacus pleuronectes</i> (Müller) Nitzsch ex Dujardin	Phpl	*2	*2	*2	*2	*2
<i>Trachelomonas lefevrei</i> Deflandre	Trle	*2	*2	*2	*2	*2	<i>Phacus ranula</i> Pochmann	Phra	*3	*3	*3	*	*3
<i>Trachelomonas planctonica</i> Svirenko	Trpl	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	<i>Phacus</i> sp.	Phsp		*	*2	*2	*
<i>Trachelomonas pulchra</i> Svirenko	Trpu		*				<i>Phacus suecicus</i> Lemmermann	Phsu	*3	*2	*3	*2	*
<i>Trachelomonas similis</i> Stokes	Trsi	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	<i>Phacus tortus</i> (Lemmermann) Skvorstzov	Phto	*	*3	*3	*	*3
<i>Trachelomonas superba</i> Svirenko	Trsu	*2	*3	*3	*3	*3	<u>Xanthophyta</u>						
<i>Trachelomonas sydneyensis</i> Playfair	Trsy	*	*	*		*2	Eustigmatophyceae						
<i>Trachelomonas volvocina</i> (Ehrenberg) Ehrenberg	Trvo	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	Goniochloridales						
<i>Trachelomonas volvocinopsis</i> Svirenko	Trvl	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	Goniochloridaceae						
<i>Trachemomona pisciformis</i> var. <i>bicoronata</i> Couté & Iltis	Trpi		*		*2	*	<i>Speudostaurastrum gracile</i> (Reinsch) Chodat	Spgr	*2	*3	*2	*2	*2
Phacaceae							<i>Speudostaurastrum lobulatum</i> (Nägeli) Bourrelly	Splo	*2	*2	*2	*2	*2
<i>Lepocinclis acus</i> (Müller) Marin & Melkonian	Leac	*2	*3	*2	*2	*	<i>Speudostaurastrum</i> sp.	Sesp	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3
<i>Lepocinclis fusiformis</i> (Carter) Lemmermann	Lefu	*2	*	*2	*2	*2	<i>Tetraedriella regularis</i> (Kützing) Fott	Tere	*	*3	*3	*3	*3
<i>Lepocinclis ovum</i> (Ehrenberg) Lemmermann	Leov	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	Xanthophyceae						
<i>Lepocinclis oxyuris</i> (Schmarda) Marin & Melkonian	Leox	*2	*3	*3	*3	*3	Mischococcales						
<i>Lepocinclis</i> sp.	Lsp1	*	*	*	*	*	Centritactaceae						
<i>Lepocinclis tripteris</i> (Dujardin) Marin & Melkonian	Letr	*	*3	*3	*2	*	<i>Centritractus belonophorus</i> (Schmidle) Lemmermann	Cebe	*	*3	*3	*3	*2
<i>Monomorphina pyrum</i> (Ehrenberg) Meresschkowsky	Mopy	*					Ophiocytaceae						
<i>Phacus acuminatus</i> Stokes	Phac	*3	*3	*3	*3	*3	<i>Ophiocytium capitatum</i> Wolle	Opca	*2	*2	*3	*	*2
<i>Phacus glaber</i> Pochmann	Phgl	*	*3	*3	*	*2	Total	242	210	207	205	209	216
<i>Phacus hamatus</i> Pochmann	Phha		*		*	*							
<i>Phacus limnophilus</i> Linton & Karnkwska-Ishikawa	Phli	*2	*	*2	*	*2							

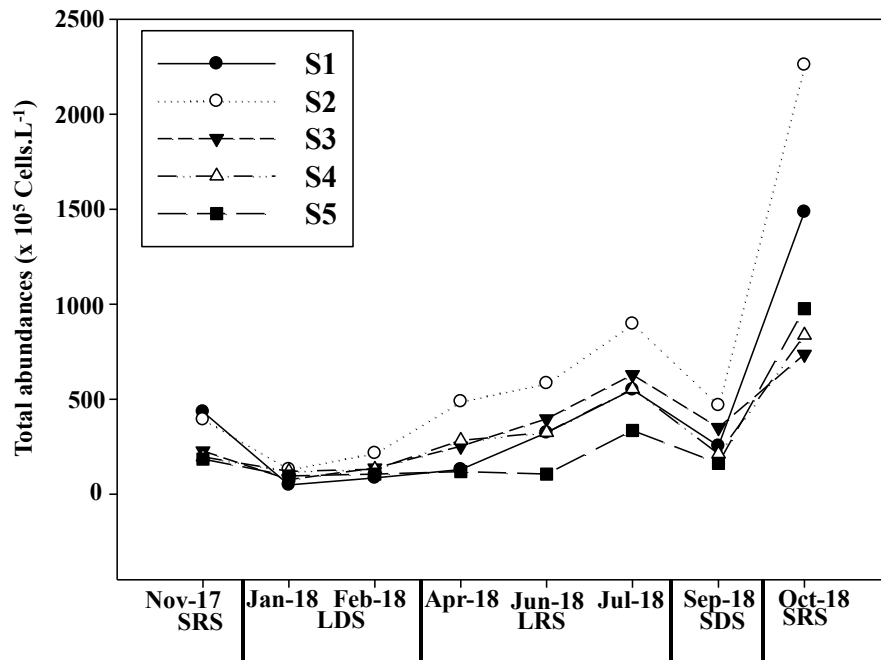
Table.3 Proportion of common (***), occasional (**) and rare (*) of phytoplankton taxa at five sampling sites (S1-S5) in the Taabo lake from November 2017 to October 2018 (Côte d'Ivoire)

Sites	Common taxa (%)	Occasional taxa (%)	Rare taxa (%)
S1	44.30	26.20	29.50
S2	63.80	20.30	15.90
S3	65.90	18.50	15.60
S4	49.30	27.30	23.40
S5	51.90	27.30	20.80

Table.4 Proportions of the Sorensen similarity index between the five sampling sites (S1 – S5) of phytoplankton in Taabo lake from November 2017 to October 2018 (Côte d'Ivoire)

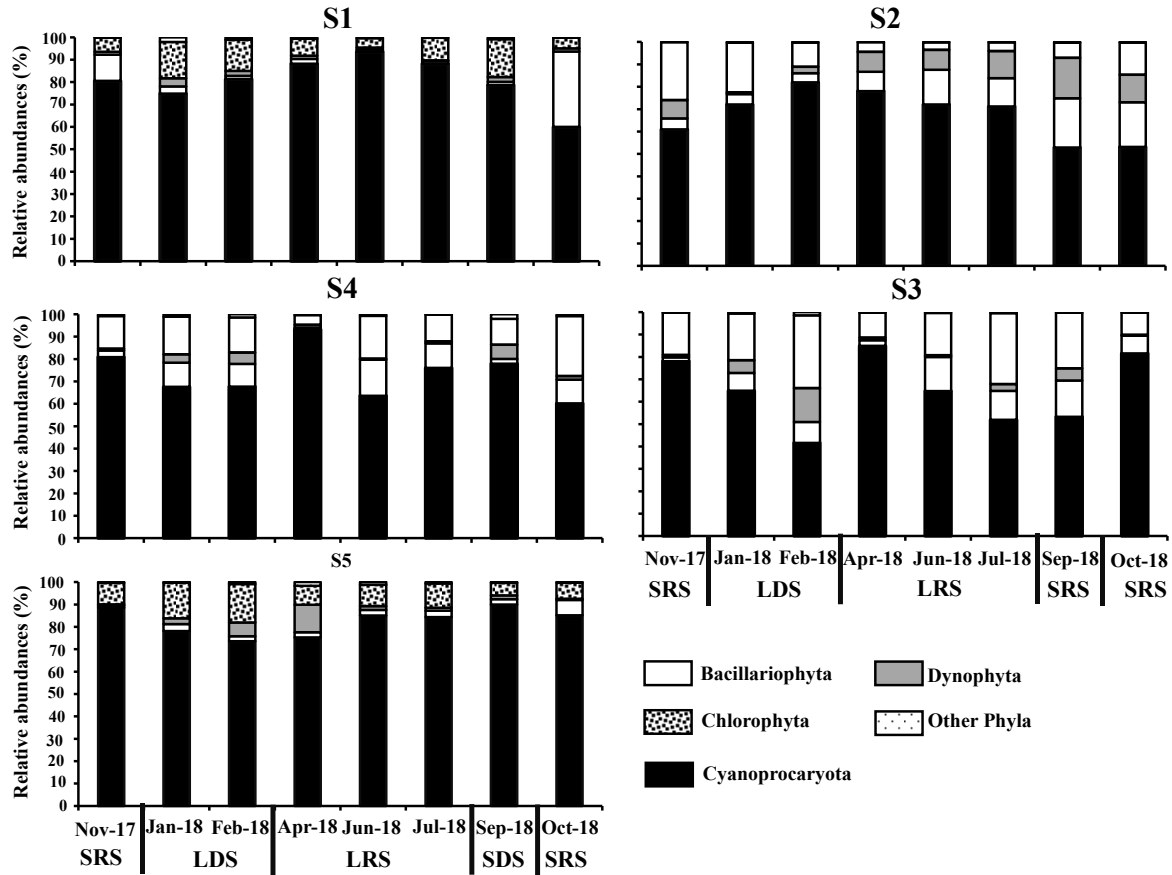
Sites	S1	S2	S3	S4
S2	98%			
S3	84%	81%		
S4	83%	81 %	91%	
S5	90 %	81%	90%	95%

Figure.3 Spatio-temporal variations in total phytoplankton abundances recorded in Taabo Lake from November 2017 to October 2018 (Côte d'Ivoire)



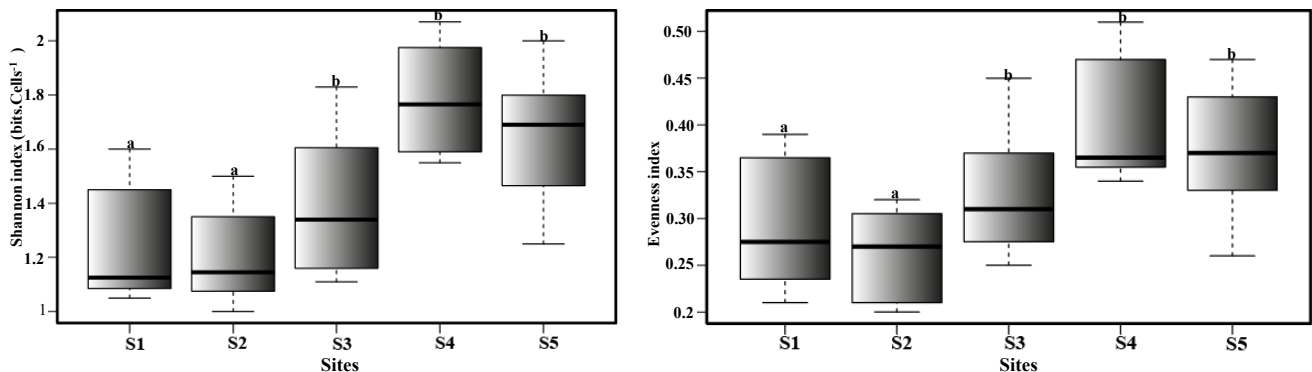
S1 - S5 = sampling sites; LDS = long dry season; LRS = long rainy season; SDS = short dry season; SRS = short rainy season; Nov = November, Jan = January, Feb = February, Apr = April, Jun = June, Jul = July, Sep = September, Oct = October

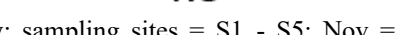
Figure.4 Spatio-temporal variations in the relative abundances of phytoplankton groups recorded in Lake Taabo from November 2017 to October 2018 (Côte d'Ivoire)



S1 - S5 = sampling sites; LDS = long dry season; LRS = long rainy season; SDS = short dry season; SRS = short rainy season; Nov = November, Jan = January, Feb = February, Apr = April, Jun = June, Jul = July, Sep = September, Oct = October

Figure.5 Boxplots showing spatial variations of Shannon index and Pielou's Evenness index of Taabo lake (Côte d'Ivoire) S1-S5: sampling sites, different letters denote significant differences between sampling sites ($p < 0.05$; Kruskal-Wallis test)





Auga: *Aulacoseira granulata* var.
 ba: *Cosmarium*; Coin: *Coelastrum*
 Aiae: *Microcystis aeruginosa*, Pamo:
ormidium sp., Psli: *Pseudanabaena*

er column promotes biological the complete cycle of algae (*et al.*, 2007; Attoungbre *et al.*, richness of Lake Taabo is lower than ara *et al.* (2007) in the Ayamé but higher than that obtained by the Adzopé reservoir (190 taxa) in difference in taxonomic richness different studies could be related rosystems explored. Indeed, the an area of 180 km², is larger than , which is larger than the Adzopé n area of 3 km². Roland *et al.* hytoplankton richness increases

with reservoir size and sampling effort. Phytoplankton is characterized by a predominance of Chlorophyta. These were the most diverse group, with a strong representation of the Scenedesmaceae and Desmidiaceae families (30 taxa each). These two families are known to be very species-rich in freshwater, especially stagnant waters (Anyanwu *et al.*, 2021). The dominance of Chlorophyta in phytoplankton communities has been highlighted in numerous studies on lakes in Côte d'Ivoire (Adon *et al.*, 2011; Attoungbré *et al.*, 2019; Kouassi *et al.*, 2021). This predominance of Chlorophyta and Euglenophyta has also been highlighted by Bouvy *et al.* (2006) in Lake Guiers in Senegal and by Matsumura-Tundisi *et al.* (1989) in the Samuel reservoir in Brazil. According to Attoungbré *et al.* (2019) and Ouattara *et al.* (2007), the great diversity of Chlorophyta in lake environments is due to the fact that this phylum includes a large number of thermophilic and photophilic taxa.

In terms of quantity, Cyanoprokaryota (Cyanobacteria) were dominant at all sites and during all periods of the study. The dominance of Cyanoprokaryota indicates that the lake environment is very favorable to their development. The dominance of Cyanoprokaryota is due in part to the enrichment of the lake with nutrients. According to Vaquer *et al.* (1997), this community is typical of turbid tropical environments. Similar results were obtained by Salazar-Torres *et al.* (2016) in the Funil reservoir in Brazil. On the other hand, Cyanoprokaryota also have a competitive advantage over other phytoplankton groups, particularly because they can regulate their vertical position in the water column, produce toxins to prevent or mitigate the proliferation of other groups, and fix atmospheric nitrogen (Schindler *et al.*, 2020).

In terms of spatial distribution, phytoplankton densities are high at sites S1 and S2. These high values at these two sites are thought to be linked to their proximity to fish farming structures (floating cages in situ), which means they are richer in organic matter and nutrients. This organic matter and nutrients come from fish feed and excrement, promoting strong phytoplankton growth compared to other sites. The degradation of this exogenous organic matter enriches the environment with nutrients, promoting algal proliferation. Our observations are consistent with those of Grogue *et al.* (2019), who observed algal proliferation linked to fish farming activities on the Kossou reservoir in Côte d'Ivoire.

In contrast to abundances, Shannon diversity and Pielou

equitability indices are significantly lower at sites S1 and S2. These low values are thought to be due to the dominance of a few Cyanoprokaryota species. Reynolds (1984) and Chorus and Bartram (1999) explain the dominance of Cyanoprokaryota by the fact that they have a competitive advantage over other phytoplankton groups, as they have the ability to regulate their vertical position in the water column in addition to their ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen. This ability improves their chances of survival compared to other groups in conditions of nutrient scarcity (Mwaura *et al.*, 2002).

The influence of abiotic factors on phytoplankton abundance was assessed using Canonical Redundancy Analysis (RDA). This analysis revealed a clear seasonal separation of the samples. During the short rainy season (SRS), parameters such as lake depth, conductivity, and nutrient concentrations were elevated. According to the hydrological regime of Lake Taabo, the highest water inputs occur between September and October. This period corresponds to the end of the short dry season and the beginning of the short rainy season (Kouassi *et al.*, 2007). The observed pattern may result from the substantial inflow of water from tributaries and surface runoff rich in minerals and nutrients. The densities of *Aulacoseira granulata* var. *angustissima*, *A. granulata* f. *spiralis*, *A. granulata*, *Cosmarium baileyi*, *Eudorina elegans*, *E. unicocca*, *Peridiniopsis armebeensis*, *Microcystis aeruginosa*, *Peridinium cinctum*, and *Pseudanabaena limnetica* were positively associated with the short rainy season (SRS). The environmental conditions during this season favored their proliferation. According to Reynolds *et al.* (2002) and Padisák *et al.* (2009), these phytoplankton taxa are typical of nutrient-rich, eutrophic environments, such as eutrophic lakes.

In conclusion, phytoplankton community is characterized by high taxonomic richness but low spatial variability, reflecting the relative environmental homogeneity of the reservoir. While Chlorophyta and Euglenophyta dominate in terms of species richness, Cyanoprokaryota largely control phytoplankton abundances throughout the year, particularly during the rainy seasons.

Seasonal nutrient enrichment, driven by hydrological inputs and anthropogenic pressures, notably agriculture and fish farming, plays a central role in shaping phytoplankton dynamics. Elevated nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations during rainy periods favor the proliferation of eutrophication-tolerant and bloom-forming taxa, such as *Microcystis aeruginosa* and

Pseudanabaena limnetica. The reduced diversity and evenness observed at sites influenced by aquaculture activities further highlight the ecological consequences of localized nutrient inputs.

Overall, the findings confirm that Taabo lake is undergoing eutrophication, with potential implications for water quality, ecosystem functioning, and resource use. These results underscore the need for improved watershed management and nutrient load control to mitigate further degradation of this socio-economically important lake.

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Data availability

The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Author contributions

CAMARA Maboundou : Conceived the original idea and designed the model and wrote the manuscript. NANGO Kouame Martin: Analysed the data, KOUASSI Blé Alexis Tardy: Review & Editing, NIAMIEN-EBROTTIE Julie Estelle: Methodology, DOUMBIA Lassina: Supervision, OUATTARA Allassane: Supervision.

Declarations

Ethical Approval Not applicable.

Consent to Participate Not applicable.

Consent to Publish Not applicable.

Conflict of Interest The authors declare no competing interests.

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