

# MACROINVERTEBRATE POPULATIONS IN A THERMALLY IMPACTED RESERVOIR

Patricia Schultz-Benker  
Daily Analytical Laboratory  
Peoria, IL 61615  
and  
B. J. Mathis  
Dept. of Biology  
Bradley University  
Peoria, IL 61625

## ABSTRACT

The macroinvertebrate community of Duck Creek Reservoir, a thermally impacted impoundment, was examined over a twelve month period to determine the effect of heated effluents on distribution and abundance. The Shannon-Weaver function,  $\bar{H}$ , was used to express species diversity. The 34,139 organisms encountered were represented by 57 taxa including Nematomorpha, Annelida, Gastropoda, Ephemeroptera, Odonata, Hemiptera, Trichoptera, Coleoptera, and Diptera. Eighty-four percent of all individuals were tendipedid larvae with one species, *Glyptotendipes lobiferus*, contributing 57 percent of the total. Other dominant species present were *G. senilis*, *Dicrotendipes nervosus*, *Cyrnellus marginalis*, *Pentaneura monilis*, and *Caenis* sp. The number of individuals per square meter increased when water temperature was moderately elevated, but abundance and diversity both were significantly reduced by higher temperature at the immediate discharge area. Seasonal variation in the abundance of organisms appeared consistent with emergence patterns of the dominant species. Bathymetric distribution showed diversity and abundance greatest between two and four meters with a rapid decline between 6 and 10 meters. Below 10 meters, organisms were rarely encountered.

## INTRODUCTION

In recent years, there has been considerable research into the effects of waste heat on aquatic habitats (Dahlberg and Conyers, 1974; Logan and Mauer, 1975;

Benda and Profitt, 1974). These studies and others have shown that macroinvertebrate diversity and abundance can be influenced by thermal effluents (Coutant, 1962; Parkin and Stahl, 1981; Warriner and Brehmer, 1966; Webb, 1981; and White, 1974). In this study, multi-plate samplers were used exclusively for collecting macroinvertebrates because depths were often greater than sixteen meters and anoxic conditions in the reservoir would have produced considerable sampling bias.

The primary objectives of this study were to characterize the macroinvertebrate community of Duck Creek Reservoir, and to determine the effect of heated effluent on macroinvertebrate community structure. This was accomplished by positioning Hester-Dendy samplers at various depths and thermal exposures, determining community structure with the use of a diversity index, establishing seasonal patterns of distribution and correlating macroinvertebrate distribution with temperature data.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

Duck Creek Reservoir is located in Fulton County, approximately 3.2 km southwest of Canton, Illinois (Fig. 1). It was constructed to supply cooling water for a coal fired generating station by damming Duck Creek. In general, the reservoir has a north-south orientation and consists of one main channel with several small side arms. The sediment composition of the substrate is primarily a sand-clay mixture.

Work on the reservoir began in late 1975 and was completed in early 1976. The basin was filled by pumping water from the Illinois River. After the initial filling, additional river water has not been used. Located at an elevation of 161.5 meters above sea level, the surface area of the reservoir covers 256.4 hectares and has a total volume of  $4.8 \times 10^7$  cubic meters. The maximum depth in the main channel is approximately 18.3 meters.

In addition to a rock dam which impounds Duck Creek, there is an inverted weir dam at the southern end of the reservoir where the generating station is located. Water that is to be used for cooling purposes is drawn into the plant below the inverted weir dam at a depth of 6.4 meters. Two pumps, each with a design capacity of 435 cubic meters per minute, move the water into the plant. During summer months, both pumps operate to circulate 795 cubic meters per minute.

The plant is a coal-fired facility containing a single 416.5 megawatt unit which has a design capacity of 3,970 BTU per kilowatt and produces 380 megawatts. The design condenser temperature rise ( $\Delta T$ ) is  $7.4^\circ\text{C}$ . After a single circulation, water leaves the plant through a 305 meter long discharge canal. Before re-entering the reservoir, heated water is passed over an energy dissipating spillway with a height of 12.2 meters.

Duck Creek Reservoir has a drainage basin of 4,015 hectares and also receives treated waste water from the City of Canton. The upper and lower parts of the reservoir are separated by a haulage road, but a conduit between the two serves to maintain an adequate water level in the lower reservoir. Water in the reservoir above the haulage road is unaffected by the elevated water temperature of the lower reservoir.

## METHODS AND MATERIALS

Seventeen stations were selected for study. Thirteen were located in the lower reservoir and four were located in the upper reservoir above the haulage road.

Three artificial substrate samplers were placed at each station. The upper sampler was suspended at a depth of 0.61 meters, the middle sampler at a depth determined to be one-half of the total depth and the lower sampler at 0.61 meters from the bottom. In order to provide an identical substrate at each sampling location, a modified multi-plate sampler was employed in the study (Hester and Dendy, 1962). Plate orientation was kept constant each time the samplers were assembled to prevent any possible sampling bias (Harrold, 1978). The total exposed area of the sampler was 0.185 square meters.

With the exception of January, 1982, when weather conditions prevented access to the reservoir, samples were collected at approximately 30 day intervals from July, 1981 through June, 1982. Organisms were separated from debris and sediments by means of Wildco Model 190 No. 30 mesh sieve. They were then preserved in 90 percent alcohol and identified using taxonomic keys by Ross (1944), Burks (1953), Pennak (1978), Usinger (1956), Johannsen (1934, 1935, 1937, 1937a), Curry (1961) and Mason (1973).

Species diversity was determined by using an equation based on the information theory equation of Shannon and Weaver (1963). This function is:

$$\bar{H} = 3.3219 (\log_{10} N - \frac{1}{N} \sum n_i \log_{10} n_i)$$

where N = total number of individuals

$n_i$  = number of individuals per  $i^{\text{th}}$  species

3.3219 = conversion factor from  $\log_{10}$  to  $\log_2$

Calculations were made on a Radio Shack TRS-80 Model III and a Cyber 170 Computer located at the Bradley University Computer Center.

In order to summarize the data, the seventeen stations were divided into zones on the basis of similar temperatures: Zone I (Stations 1 through 4); Zone II (Stations 5 through 8); Zone III (Stations 9, 12, 13 and 14); Zone IV (Stations 15 through 17) and Zone V (Stations 10 and 11). Bathymetric distributions were based on samples which were taken at the same depth or within the same range of depths.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Temperature and Dissolved Oxygen

Average temperatures from both the upper and lower reservoir ranged from 20°C at Station 4, to 33°C at Station 10 in the discharge arm (Fig. 2). Elevated temperatures were consistently observed throughout Zone III, where the heated effluent enters the main body of the reservoir.

Temperature and dissolved oxygen profiles were used to determine the position of the thermocline and the occurrence of overturns. Throughout July and August, the thermocline occurred between six and nine meters. The fall overturn began during October and was completed by January. Temperature and dissolved oxygen was constant throughout the water column until March. The hypolimnion was re-established below nine meters during June.

### Macroinvertebrates

A total of 34,139 macroinvertebrates representing 57 species were collected during the study. Twenty-five of the species were tendipedid larvae with the members of this family contributing 84.2 percent of all individuals. The remaining 16.8 per-

cent were represented by Nematomorpha, Annelida, Amphipoda, Gastropoda, Ephemeroptera, Odonata, Hemiptera, Trichoptera, Coleoptera and two other Dipteran families, Culicidae and Heleidae. One species of Tendipedidae, *G. lobiferus*, constituted 56.6 percent of the total number of individuals (Table 1).

Tendipedids dominated the species composition at every station ranging from 55 percent at Station 5 to 99 percent at Station 11. At Station 10, which is adjacent to the warm water effluent, 98 percent of all organisms were tendipedids. Three species of Tendipedidae, *G. lobiferus*, *G. senilis* and *Dicrotendipes nervosus* were most numerous among this family and all three are known for their wide range of temperature tolerance (Beck, 1977). With few exceptions, *G. lobiferus* was the most abundant species at every station and was found in all samples where organisms were present. In the discharge area, however, *G. senilis* increased in abundance while *D. nervosus* numbers decreased.

As a percent of the total number of organisms collected, the Tendipedidae accounted for 49 percent in June and 100 percent in February. During every sampling period, either *G. lobiferus* or *G. senilis* was the dominant species present. Over 65 percent of all *G. lobiferus* occurred during July. The abundance of this single species is reflected in the increased number of individuals per m<sup>2</sup> during July and September, which corresponds to their expected pattern of emergence and repopulation (Iovino and Miner, 1970).

Two species of Tendipedidae appeared in the dominant species composition only during winter. *Dicrotendipes modestus* was present throughout the study, but only in winter was it encountered in significant numbers. *Cricotopus bicinctus* was not present at any time except winter. According to Iovino and Miner (1970), *C. bicinctus* has a high dissolved oxygen requirement. It was most abundant when high levels of dissolved oxygen were recorded.

In general, the species encountered in this study were typical of those indigenous to the Central Illinois River Basin and other Central Illinois reservoirs. Notably absent in this study were the large populations of clams and oligochaetes present in Peoria Lake (Richardson, 1921, 1921a, 1924, 1925 and 1928) and the chaoborids which are a dominant taxa in both Lake Carlyle and Lake Shelbyville (Dufford, Swadener and Waite, 1976 and 1977; Brigham, 1973, 1974, 1975 and 1976). However, these benthic species do not typically colonize multi-plate samplers and are more frequently encountered in dredge samples.

Macroinvertebrates collected from other thermally impacted waterways closely resembled populations encountered at Duck Creek Reservoir. At Baldwin Lake, communities sampled in the discharge area were dominated by *G. lobiferus* and *D. nervosus* (Parkin and Stahl, 1981). However, these authors also report that these species showed a preference for the Hester-Dendy sampler and were less common in dredge samples taken in the same area. Benda and Profitt (1974) found *G. lobiferus* the most abundant invertebrate collected near thermal discharges into the White River.

The number of organisms encountered varied substantially with the depth of the sampler and ranged from 0 to 8,033 individuals per m<sup>2</sup>. Mean values for samples taken at a depth of 0.61 meters ranged from 147 individuals per m<sup>2</sup> at Station 13, to 1,412 individuals per m<sup>2</sup> at Station 1 (Fig. 3). Abundance was significantly reduced throughout the thermally influenced zones; however, Station 11 in the discharge arm had the highest mean number of individuals per m<sup>2</sup> within the lower reservoir.

The range in abundance of macroinvertebrates per m<sup>2</sup> is consistent with those found in similar studies in Illinois. In Peoria lake, Richardson (1925), found 844 to 1,684 individuals per m<sup>2</sup> and in 1928, 192 to 5,634 individuals per m<sup>2</sup> were present. In Lake Sangcris, the range was 57 to 5,028 individuals per m<sup>2</sup> (Webb, 1981), while at Baldwin Lake, the mean was 32 individuals per m<sup>2</sup> in the heated areas and 1,082 individuals per m<sup>2</sup> in unheated areas (Parkin and Stahl, 1981).

The Shannon-Weaver function has been used to illustrate the effect of environment stress by reflecting changes in community structure (Wilhm, 1967; Wilhm and Dorris, 1966; Mathis and Dorris, 1967; Mathis, 1968).  $\bar{H}$  values ranged from 2.3 at Station 5 to 0.7 at Station 10 (Fig. 3). The highest values for  $\bar{H}$  occurred at Stations 1 through 5, while in areas where the highest water temperatures occurred, reduced  $\bar{H}$  values reflected the presence of a few temperature tolerant species.

Seasonal variation in  $\bar{H}$  ranged from 0.6 in February (Day 50) to 2.1 in August (Day 250) (Fig. 4). In general,  $\bar{H}$  decreased steadily with falling temperatures and increased as temperatures began to rise. In addition to changes in community structure induced by seasonal temperature variation,  $\bar{H}$  was also influenced by seasonal reproductive patterns of dominant species.

When all samplers were considered and numbers of individuals were grouped according to similar sampling depths, the number of macroinvertebrates was highest between two and four meters, averaging 789 individuals per m<sup>2</sup>. The lowest numbers were found between 16 and 18 meters where only one individual per m<sup>2</sup> was present. The most significant decline in abundance was between six and ten meters. This depth corresponds to the thermocline. Below ten meters, organisms were rarely encountered (Fig. 5).

As a percent of the total number of organisms collected, the Tendipedidae were dominant at all depths, ranging from 71 percent to 100 percent of all individuals. Below eight meters, *G. lobiferus* and *G. senilis* were most numerous. Both of these species have a low dissolved oxygen requirement and are considered by some to be facultative anaerobic (Beck, 1977).

Community structure, as assessed by  $\bar{H}$ , paralleled the bathymetric distribution of individuals (Fig. 5). Within the thermocline,  $\bar{H}$  was dramatically reduced. An  $\bar{H}$  value of 1.7 was determined for both the two to four meter and four to six meter ranges.  $\bar{H}$  was zero between 16 and 18 meters, where either *G. lobiferus* or *G. senilis* was the only species found.

## SUMMARY

Hester-Dendy samplers were used over a twelve month period to determine the effects of thermal enrichment on the community structure of macroinvertebrates in Duck Creek Reservoir. Fifty-seven species and 34,139 individuals were collected during the study. Twenty-five of the species and 84 percent of all individuals were tendipedid dipterans. The remaining 16 percent of the taxa were represented by Nematomorpha, Annelida, Amphipoda, Gastropoda, Ephemeroptera, Odonata, Hemiptera, Trichoptera, Coleoptera, and Diptera families Heleidae and Culicidae. With few exceptions, species composition and abundance of organisms were consistent with those reported in other thermally impacted reservoirs.

The Tendipedidae were the dominant organisms at each station, at all depths and during every season. *Glyptotendipes lobiferus* constituted 57 percent of all organisms collected, while *G. senilis* comprised 13 percent of the total number. Both species

are known to be tolerant of extreme temperatures and both were found abundantly in the discharge area. *Pentaneura monilis*, a temperature tolerant tanypod whose abundance increased with temperature, appeared to have replaced *Cynellus marginalis* near the outfall.

The average number of individuals per m<sup>2</sup> varied considerably between the upper and lower reservoir. In general, density was significantly greater at stations in the upper reservoir. The highest density in the lower reservoir was at Station 11, where water temperatures were moderately influenced by the effluent.

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Table 1. Relative abundance of macroinvertebrates collected from upper and lower Duck Creek Reservoir.

| Species                           | Number Collected | Relative Abundance | Location by Zone |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <i>Glyptotendipes lobiferus</i>   | 19,315           | 57%                | I,II,III,IV,V    |
| <i>G. senilis</i>                 | 4,289            | 13%                | I,II,III,IV,V    |
| <i>Dicrotendipes nervosus</i>     | 3,955            | 12%                | I,II,III,IV,V    |
| <i>Cynnellus marginalis</i>       | 2,543            | 8%                 | I,II,III,IV,V    |
| <i>Pentaneura monilis</i>         | 1,179            | 4%                 | I,II,III,IV,V    |
| <i>Caenis</i> sp.                 | 1,082            | 3%                 | I,II,III,IV,V    |
| <i>Chironomus tentans</i>         | 404              | 1%                 | I,II,III,IV,V    |
| <i>Endochironomus nigricans</i>   | 213              | 1%                 | I,II,III,IV,V    |
| <i>Dicrotendipes modestus</i>     | 181              |                    | I,II,III,IV,V    |
| <i>Harnishia abortiva</i>         | 165              |                    | I,II,III         |
| <i>Argia sedula</i>               | 132              |                    | I,II,III,IV,V    |
| <i>Limnodrilus</i> sp.            | 106              |                    | I,IV             |
| <i>Hyatella azteca</i>            | 68               |                    | I,II,III         |
| <i>Gordius</i> sp.                | 66               |                    | I,II,IV,V        |
| <i>Cricotopus bicinctus</i>       | 62               |                    | I,II,III,IV,V    |
| <i>Argia</i> sp. a                | 45               |                    | I,II,III,IV,V    |
| <i>A. emma</i>                    | 31               |                    | I,II,III,IV,V    |
| <i>Potamyia flava</i>             | 31               |                    | V                |
| <i>Polypedilium flavus</i>        | 31               |                    | I,II,III,IV,V    |
| <i>Pentaneura flavifrons</i>      | 28               |                    | I,II,III,V       |
| <i>Hydropsyche orris</i>          | 25               |                    | II,V             |
| <i>Bezzia varicolor</i>           | 21               |                    | I,II,III,V       |
| <i>Diamesa</i> sp.                | 20               |                    | I,II,III,V       |
| <i>Argia vivida</i>               | 17               |                    | I,II             |
| <i>Phaenospectra obediens</i>     | 15               |                    | I,II,III         |
| <i>Enallagma praevarium</i>       | 12               |                    | I,II,IV,V        |
| <i>Agraylea multipunctata</i>     | 11               |                    | I,II             |
| <i>Tribelos</i> sp.               | 10               |                    | II,III,V         |
| <i>Paralauterborniells</i> sp.    | 9                |                    | I,II,V           |
| <i>Physa</i> sp.                  | 9                |                    | II,V             |
| <i>Palpomyia tibialis</i>         | 8                |                    | I,II             |
| <i>Psectrocladius simulans</i>    | 8                |                    | I,II,III,V       |
| <i>Dineutus</i> sp.               | 8                |                    | I,II             |
| <i>Chaoborus punctipennis</i>     | 7                |                    | I,II,V           |
| <i>Parachironomus monochromus</i> | 6                |                    | I,II             |
| <i>Cryptochironomus</i> sp.       | 6                |                    | I,II             |
| <i>Enallagma</i> sp.a             | 6                |                    | I,II             |

Table 1 (cont.)

| Species                       | Number Collected | Relative Abundance          | Location by Zone |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Chironomus attenuatus</i>  | 6                |                             | I                |
| <i>Cricotopus fugax</i>       | 5                |                             | I,II             |
| <i>Ephemerella deficiens</i>  | 4                |                             | I                |
| <i>Orthocladius sp.</i>       | 4                |                             | I,IV             |
| <i>Enallagma carunculatum</i> | 4                |                             | II,IV,V          |
| <i>Procladius bellus</i>      | 3                |                             | II               |
| <i>Probezzia sp. a</i>        | 3                |                             | I,II,III         |
| <i>Tanypus stellatus</i>      | 2                |                             | III              |
| <i>Gyretes sp.</i>            | 2                |                             | I                |
| <i>Baetis sp.</i>             | 2                |                             | I                |
| <i>Hexagenia limbata</i>      | 1                |                             | II               |
| <i>Ishnura barberi</i>        | 1                |                             | V                |
| <i>Chromagrion conditum</i>   | 1                |                             | I                |
| <i>Lethocerus americanus</i>  | 1                |                             | II               |
| <i>Coelotanypus concinnus</i> | 1                |                             | I                |
| <i>Einfeldia sp.</i>          | 1                |                             | I                |
| <i>Chaoborus sp. a</i>        | 1                |                             | II               |
| <i>Chaoborus rotundifolia</i> | 1                |                             | I                |
| <i>Probezzia copiosa</i>      | 1                |                             | I                |
| <i>Ferrissia sp.</i>          | 1                |                             | I                |
| TOTAL NUMBER OF SPECIES       | 57               | TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS | 34,139           |

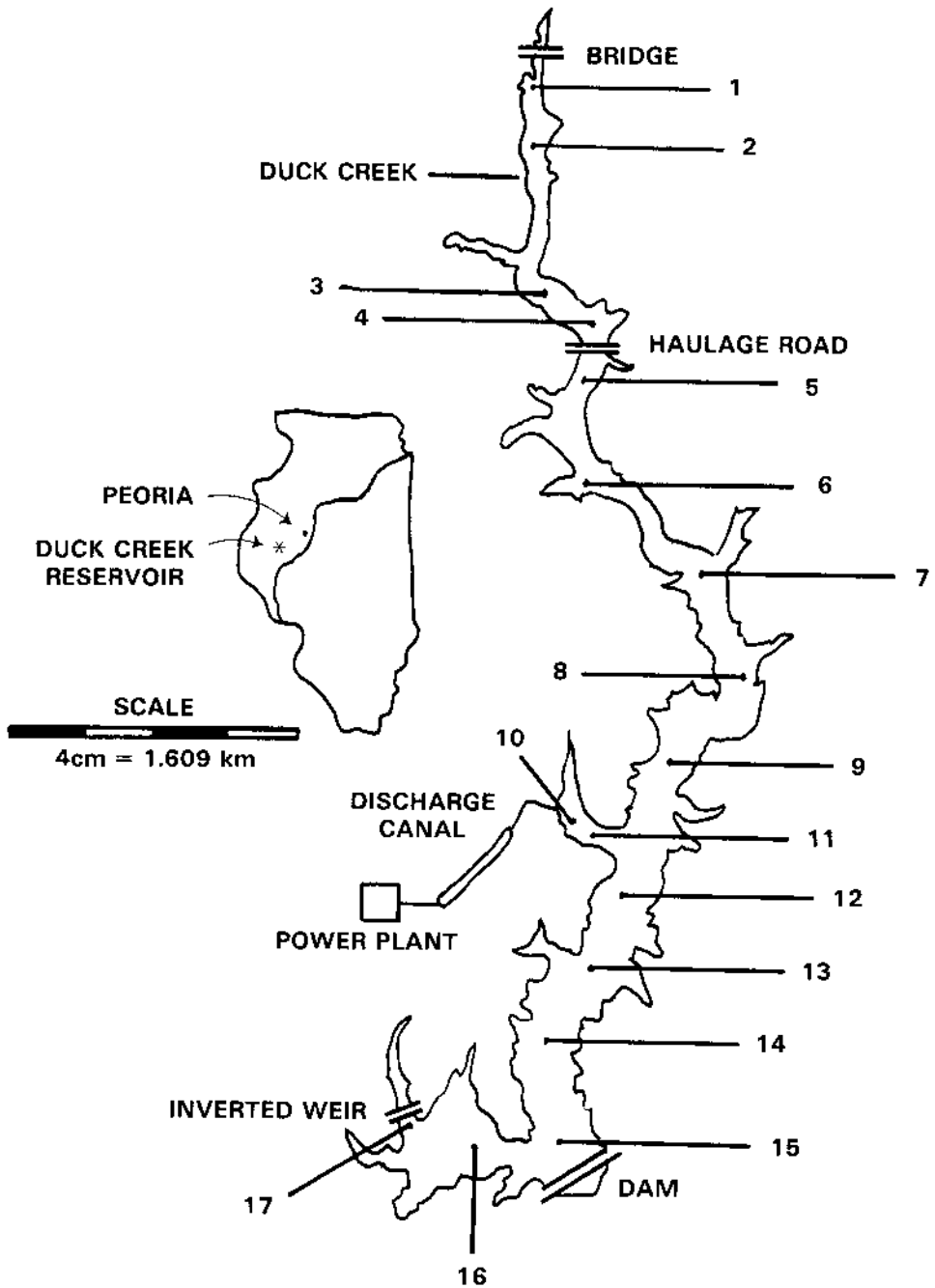


Fig. 1. MAP OF DUCK CREEK RESERVOIR SAMPLING STATIONS AND TEMPERATURE ZONES (Zone I-Stations 1-4; Zone II-Stations 5-8; Zone III-Stations 9, 12, 13 and 14; Zone IV-Stations 15-17; and Zone V-Stations 10 and 11).

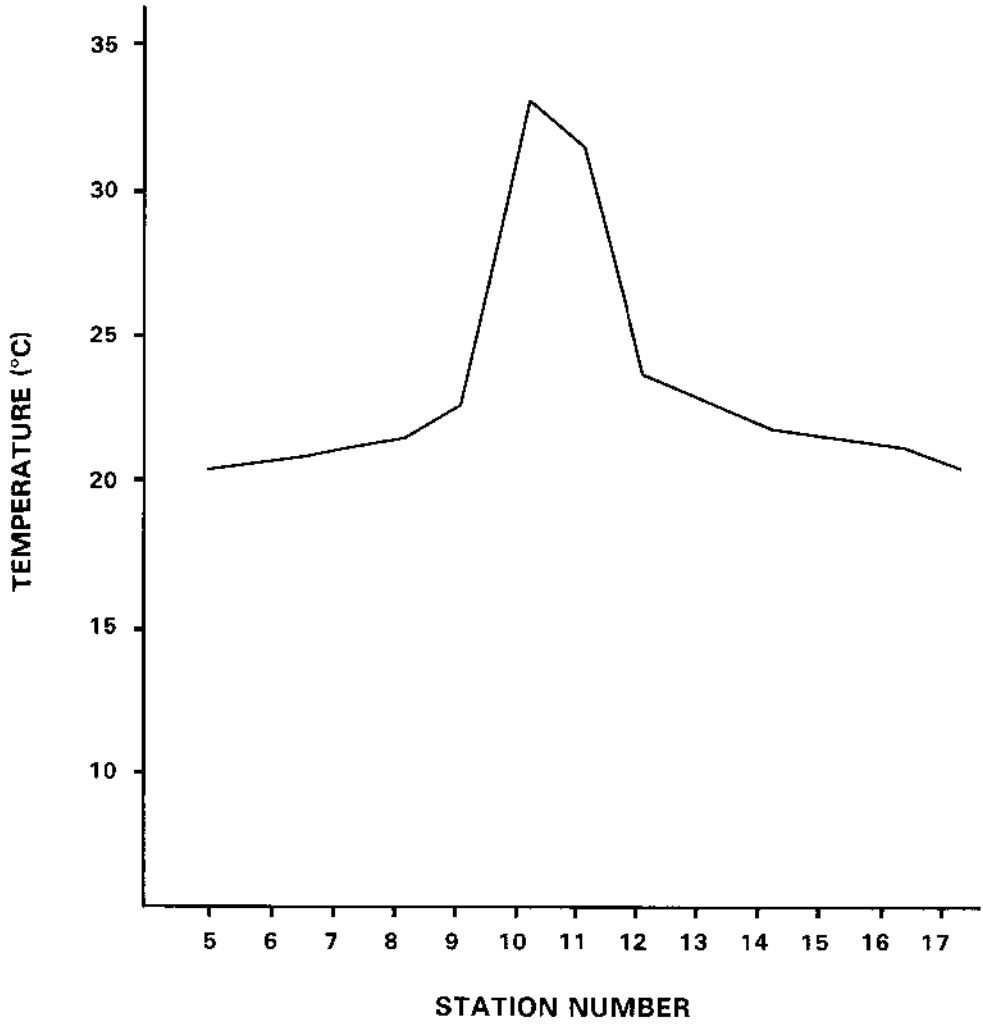


Fig. 2. MEAN TEMPERATURE FOR STATIONS IN LOWER DUCK CREEK RESERVOIR DURING 1981 AND 1982 AT A DEPTH OF 0.61 METERS.

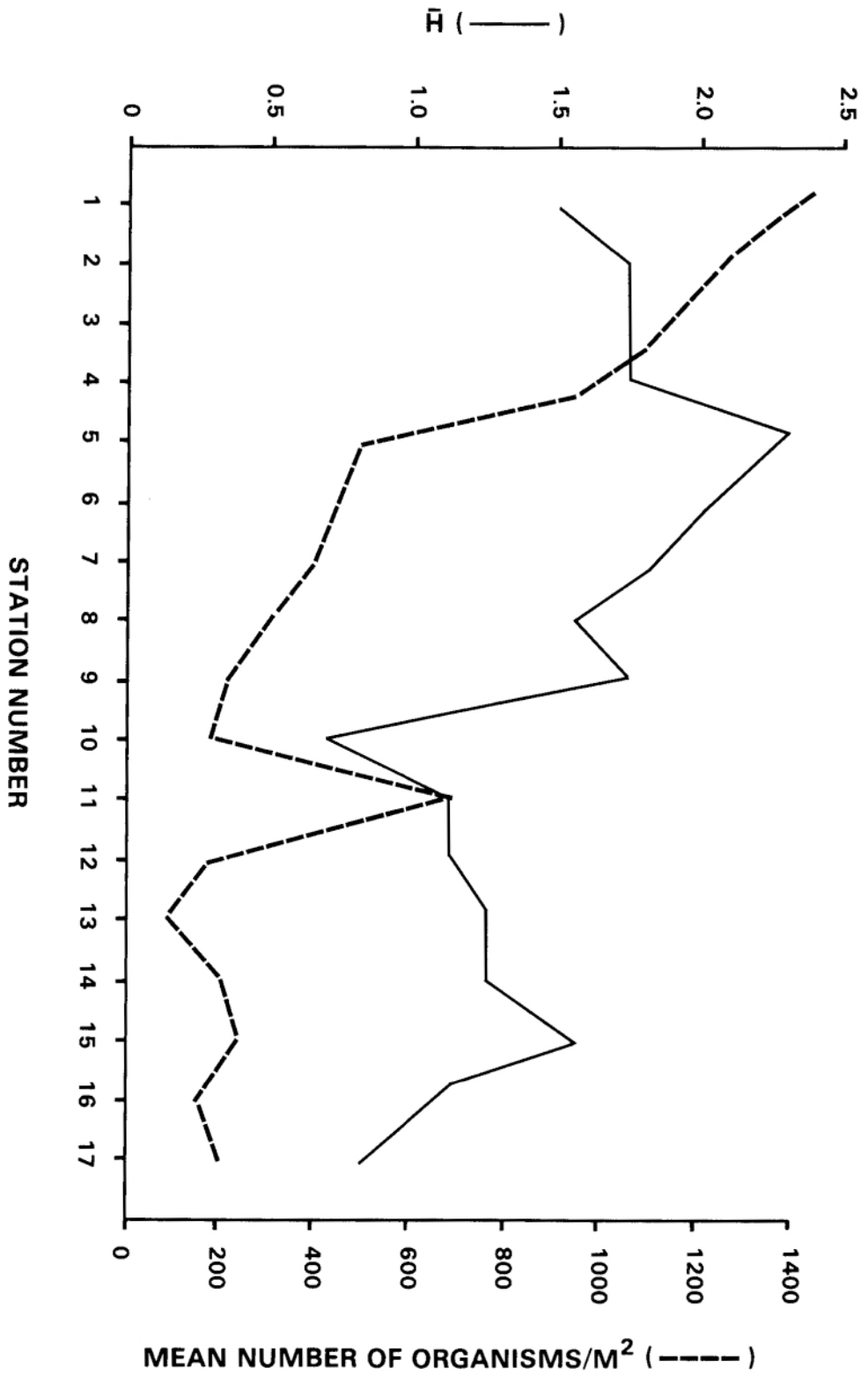


Fig. 3. MEAN NUMBER OF ORGANISMS/M<sup>2</sup> AND  $\bar{H}$  FOR SAMPLES TAKEN AT A DEPTH OF 0.61 METERS.

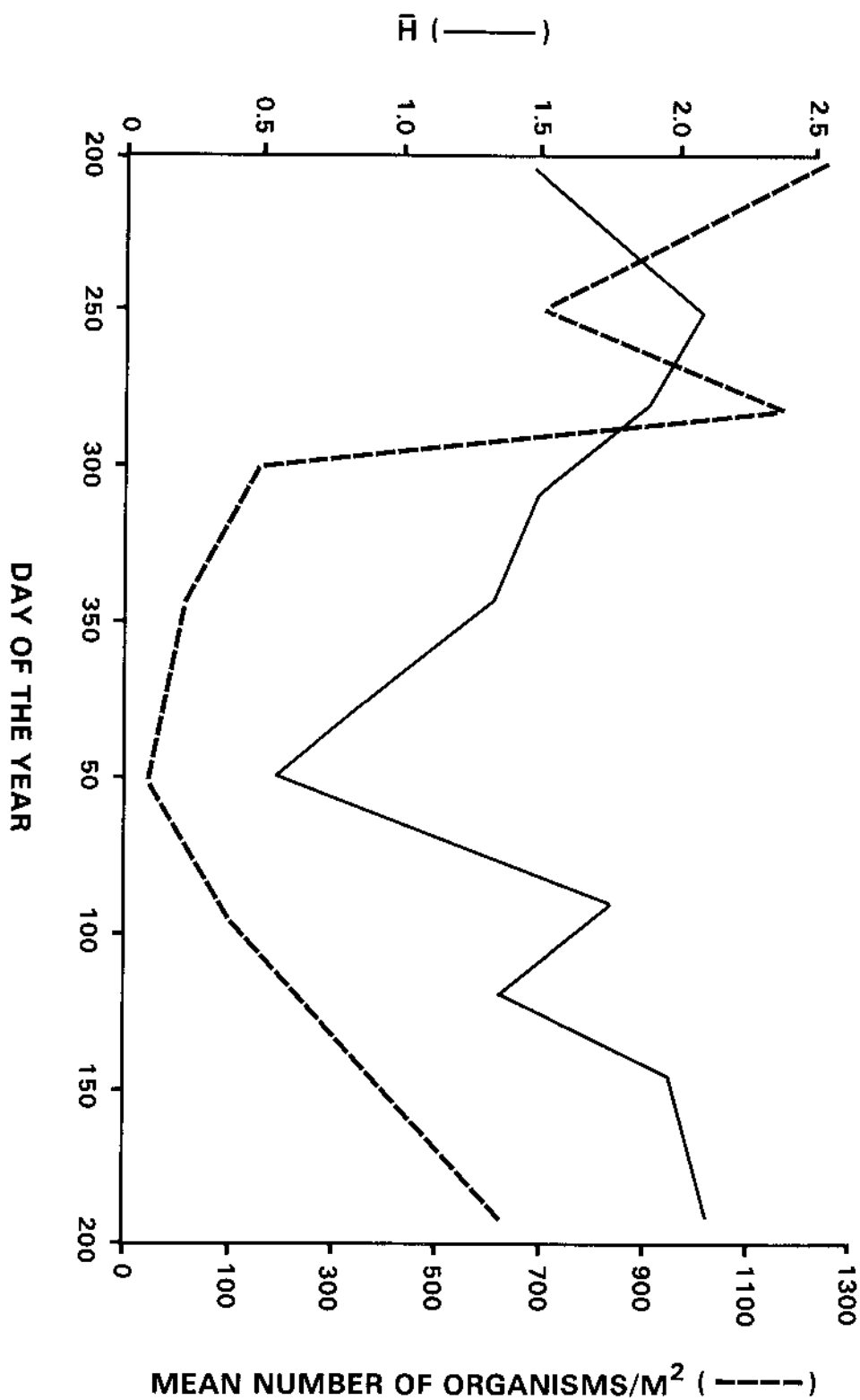


Fig. 4. SEASONAL VARIATION IN NUMBERS OF ORGANISMS/M<sup>2</sup> AND  $\bar{H}$  FOR ALL SAMPLES TAKEN AT A DEPTH OF 0.61 METERS.

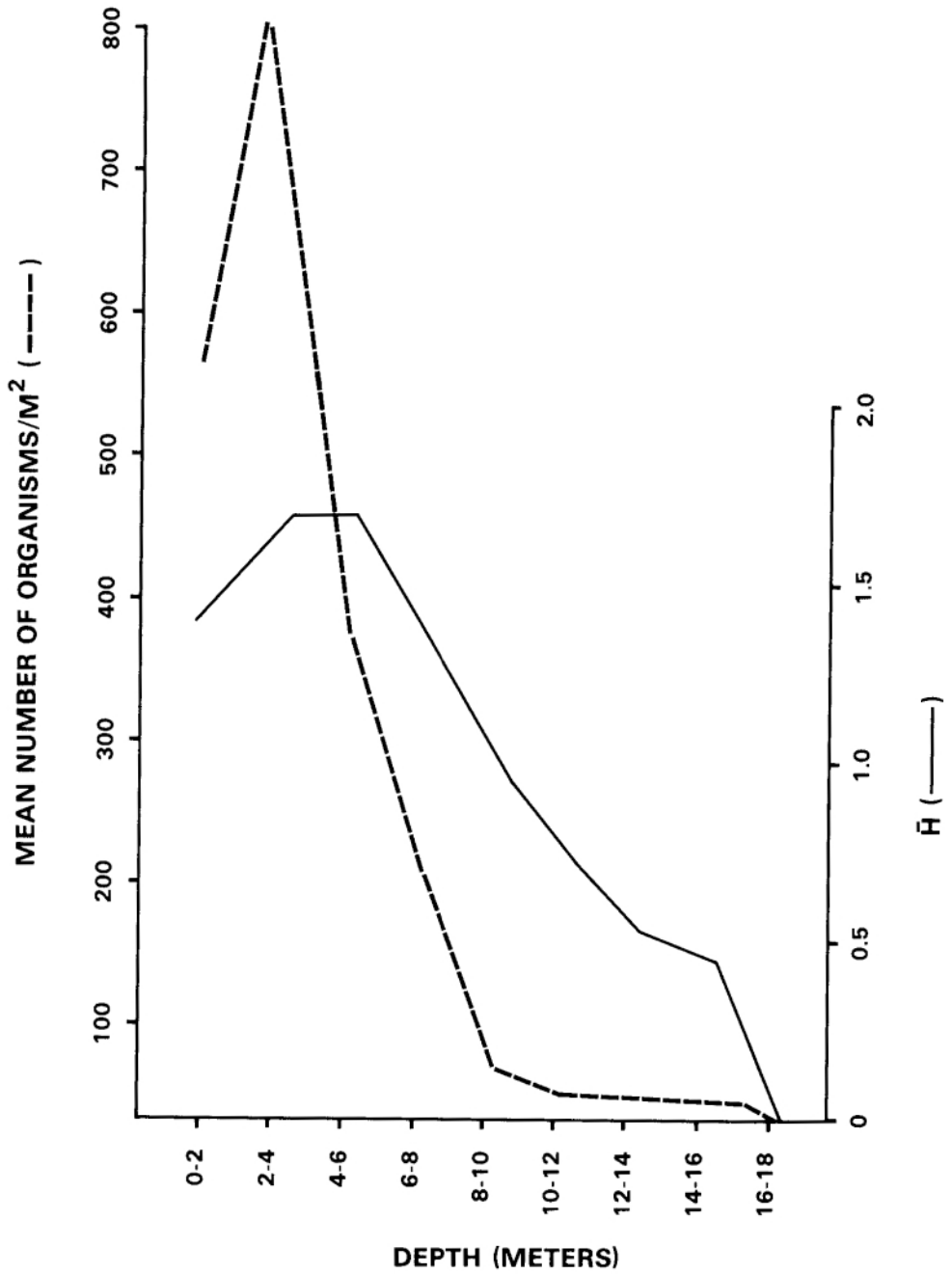


Fig. 5. BATHYMETRIC DISTRIBUTION OF ORGANISMS/M<sup>2</sup> AND  $\bar{H}$ .