

# Temporal and spatial distribution of rotifera in a Chilean reservoir: A possible effect of impoundment hydrodynamics

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Rotifers were sampled at monthly intervals for a year at four monitoring stations in Rapel Reservoir (a hydroelectric impoundment) in Central Chile ( $34^{\circ}02'S$ ;  $71^{\circ}35'W$ ). Fifteen species were identified, but only *Keratella cochlearis* was consistently found at each station, it usually was the most abundant (> 50% of total rotifers). Marked differences were found among sites; stations 1 and 2, those nearest to the dam, showed greatest rotifer densities in spring and autumn. Station 4, that nearest to the inflowing rivers, had its highest rotifer abundance in summer. Station 8 had the highest mean density but the least marked seasonal changes in rotifer numbers. The impoundment water dynamics and the relative locations within the lake (distance from the dam or from the rivers) are suggested as determinants for different rotifer assemblages and, probably, for most other planktonic organisms. © 1984 Dr W. Junk Publishers.