

Distribution of aquatic macrophytes in the coastal area of Salimpur, Chittagong, Bangladesh.

ABSTRACT

This preliminary study was conducted to investigate the distribution pattern of the aquatic macrophytes in the inter-tidal coastal belt of Salimpur, Chittagong. During this study, 3 species of mangrove, i.e., *Sonneratia apetala*, *Avicennia marina* and *Acanthus ilicifolius*, 1 species of wild rice related to salt marsh grass, i.e., *Porteresia coarctata*, 3 species of macroalgae, i.e., *Ulva intestinalis*, *Catenella nipae* and *Dictyota dichotoma* and 1 species of poison lily *Crinum defixum* were identified from this coast. The dominant macrophyte was *Sonneratia apetala*, followed by *Porteresia coarctata* in the coast line of Salimpur. Considering from the ecological and economic view, especially *Catenella nipae*, could be an important living resource for cultivation and sea ranching in this area. Besides, the importance of these aquatic inter-tidal macrophytes for fishery resources and overall ecosystem processes should not be over looked in this coastal area.

Keyword: Aquatic macrophytes; Salt marsh; Mangrove; Macro-algae; Salimpur; Chittagong.