



Biomass production in *Typha angustata* (Aquatic macrophytes)

Dr. Devendra Pal Singh, Dr. Arun Kumar Singh

Department of Botany, RBS College Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India

Abstract

The Production on temperate condition in *Typha* species may exceed that of tropical swamps, however without venturing into the possibilities caused of higher standing crop and the rates of production in tropical and subtropical regions. Underground and Aboveground Biomass and their ratios at flowering time in different natural stands of *Typha angustata* near Agra, India were studied in the field and experimentally over a period of eleven months (June To April) The underground biomass was 40-50% of the aboveground biomass in both natural and experimental conditions.

Keywords: *Typha angustata*

Introduction

A comparison of biomass of below ground and aboveground parts of *Typha angustata* with other emergent species growing in different habitats reveals that *Typha angustata* also ranks among the most productive wetland species.

Biomass production of above ground parts of *Typha angustata* has been estimated for both undisturbed (Upstream, river, Yamuna and Keetham reservoir) and annually cut (downstream sites) stands, *Typha* are frequently eaten by wetland mammals such as muskrats, that also use them to construct feeding platforms and dens, providing nesting and resting places for waterfowl, all though *Typha* are native wetland plants, they can be aggressive in their competition with other native species.

An introduced or hybrid species may be contributing to the problem control is difficult. The most successful strategy appears to be mowing or burning to remove the aerenchymous stalks, following by prolonged flooding.

Materials and Method

The emergent macrophyte have been investigated greater detail in temperate and some tropical regions. Primary production of emergent macrophytes is also higher in tropical and subtropical regions than in the temperate regions. A young stand of *Typha angustata* has been found to have the highest net production, *Typha* are considered dominant competitions in wetlands in many areas and they often exclude other plants with their dense canopy they are among the most abundant wetland plants. Different species of cattails are adapted to different water depths. Will developed aerenchyma make the plants tolerant of submerision. Leaves are glabrous (hairless), linear, alternate and mostly based on a simple, jointless stem that bear the flower spikes. The plant monocious with unisexual flower that developed indense racemes. The numerous male flower from a narrow spike at the top of the vertical stem. Each male (staminate) and hairs and wethers once the pollen is shed. Large numbers of tiny female flower form a dense sausage shaped spike on the stem

below the male spike.



Fig 1: *Typha angustata*

The biomass of belowground organs often, did not exceed 4500g/m² (Sharma and Gopal, 1977, Sharma and Pradhan, 1983, Saxena, 1986) [4] However, it was little higher (4800 g/m²) in *Typha angustata* growing in the Srinagar (Kaul *et al.* 1972, 1978, Handoo and Kaul, 1982).

Biomass of both above ground and below ground parts of emergent macrophyte of temperate region such as *Typha angustifolia*, *Typha domingensis* *Typha glauca* and *Typha latifolia* ranged in between 1500- 4040g/m² and 500-6000 g/m² respectively. Above ground and below ground parts of undisturbed stand of *Typha angustata* ranging from 3188.9 to 5920 g/m² and 304.5 to 461.5 g/m² respectively. Gopal and Sharma (1977) also noted that annual cutting of above ground shoots improve growth behaviour in *Typha elephantina*.



Fig 2: *Typha angustifolia*

A number of factors such as the water balance temperature nutrient plant density and chlorophyll concentration etc., affect the primary production in different environments. The studies in India and other tropical regions are too fragmentary. There are few investigations of the actual photosynthesis and respiration of fresh water macrophytes in tropics.

It can be safely said that a longer growth period is the most important factor. The plant growth occurs almost throughout the year.

Typhaceae

<i>Typha angustata</i> Bary et. chand	Apr.- May	WLH
<i>Typha elephantina</i> Roxb.	Jun- July	WLH

Typha are considered dominant competitions in wetlands in many areas and they often exclude other plants with their dense canopy they are among the most abundant wetland plants. Different species of cattails are adapted to different water depths. Well developed aerenchyma make the plants tolerant of submerision. Leaves are glabrous (hairless), linear, alternate and mostly based on a simple, jointless stem that bear the flowers spikes. The plant monocious with unisexual flower that developed indense racemes. The numerous male flower from a narrow spike at the top of the vertical stem. Each male (staminate) and hairs and wethers once the pollen is shed. Large numbers of tiny female flower form a dense sausage shaped spike on the stem below the male spike

Result

It belong to the family Typhaceae. A robust marsh plant, up to 10 feet high. Leaves 8 feet long 1/2 to an inch broad, semicylindric, above the sheath, acute; Male and female spikes separated by considerable interval, up to 12 inches long brown. Male flower paler and more slender. Pollens simple, Female flowers mixed with clavate sterile pistillodes. Bracteoles of female flowers subspathulata, equalling the linear stigmas, both longer than the hairs. The seeds are minute, 0.2 millimeters (0.008 in) long, and attached to fine hairs. When ripe the heads disintegrate in to a collony fluff from which the deeds disperse by wind.

References

1. Lavania GS, Paliwal SC, Gopal B. In; Ecology and Management of Aquatic vegetation in the Indian Sub-continent., Kluwer Acad. Publishers Netherland. 1990.
2. Sharma AK, Dhakre JS. The Biological Spectrum of Agra

Flora. 5th All India Bot. Conf. Rajkot 60, Abst. 1982; 5(2):24.

3. Singh, Arun K. Flora of Mainpuri district Ph.D. Thesis Agra- University Agra. 1988.
4. Sharma KP, Pradhan VN. Study on growth and biomass of underground organs of *Typha angustata* Bary et. chaub. Hydrobiologia. 1983; 98:147-151.
5. Szezepanska W, Szezepanski A. Interactions between *Phragmites australis* (Cav.) Trin,ex steud. And *Typha latifolia* L. Ekol. Pol. 1982; 30:165-186.
6. Selbo SM, Snow AA. The potential for hybridization between *Typha angustifolia* and *Typha latifolia* constructed wetland Aquatic Botany. 2004; 78(4):361-369.
7. Brix H, Sehierup HH. The use of aquatic macrophytes in water pollution control. Ambio. 1989; 18:100-107.