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(*Azolla filiculoides* Lam.)

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(*Phragmites australis*)

(*Typha latifolia*)

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(*Lemna minor*)

(*Salvinia rotundifolia*)

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$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left( \frac{W_2}{W_1} \right)^{\frac{1}{t_2 - t_1}} - 1 \\
 & = \frac{\ln \left( \frac{W_2}{W_1} \right)}{t_2 - t_1} \\
 & = \ln 2 / \text{RGR}
 \end{aligned}$$

( $\mu\text{E} \cdot \text{m}^{-2} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ )

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<sup>1</sup> Relative Growth Rate

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<sup>1</sup> - Center & Spencer  
<sup>2</sup> - Aghami & Reddy  
<sup>3</sup> Ray

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<sup>1</sup> - Room  
<sup>v</sup> - Watanabe & Berja  
<sup>^</sup> Cary & Weerts  
<sup>^</sup> - Awad

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<sup>\</sup> - Mitchell & Tur  
<sup>v</sup> Zutshi & Vass  
<sup>v</sup> - Ush Rani & Bhambie  
<sup>^</sup> - Finlayson  
<sup>o</sup> - Singh & Yadava

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## An Ecological Investigation into the Excessive Growth of *Azolla* in the Anzali Lagoon and its Control

Y. Filizadeh<sup>1</sup>

### Abstract

*Azolla filiculoides* Lam. is a free-floating weed, which has occupied a vast surface in Anzali lagoon. Excessive growth of *Azolla* on the surface of Anzali lagoon has not only interfered with the use of the lagoon as a water resource, but has also created ecological and water quality problems. To determine the reasons for *Azolla* excessive growth, four experiments were undertaken under laboratory conditions, fish pond and Anzali lagoon during years 1999-2000. Experimental results showed that *Azolla* with a more rapid growth and a lower doubling time was the superior competitor when in competition with *Lemna minor*. The research revealed that maximum relative growth rate ( $0.11\text{gg}^{-1}\text{ day}^{-1}$ ) and minimum doubling time (6.27 days) were observed during May and June respectively. Results indicated that by raising the temperature from 18 to 21 and from 21 to 24°C in 20mg Po<sub>4</sub>-P<sub>1</sub>-1 a significant increase in growth rate and substantial decrease in doubling time were obtained. Experimental results showed that 2 applications of paraquat herbicide with 0.75, 1.25 and 1.5 mg l<sup>-1</sup> under laboratory conditions, fish pond and Anzali lagoon, respectively and significantly reduced the biomass (plant dry weight) stopping the growth. The growth rate and doubling time record for *Azolla* in this investigation illustrates its rapid colonizing ability. Thus, a small amount of *Azolla* present in the Anzali lagoon has the potential to spread rapidly and cause serious weed problems. The cessation of the sewage inflow to the lagoon and using a contact herbicide such as paraquat with suitable dosage were the necessary steps to significantly reduce *Azolla* growth.

**Keywords:** *Azolla filiculoides*, Anzali lagoon, Competition, Doubling time, Temperature, Phosphorus level, Paraquat herbicide

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