

## Distribution of Aquatic Macrophytes in the Coastal Area of Salimpur, Chittagong, Bangladesh

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### 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., Sonarattia apetala, Avicennia marina and Acanthus ilicifolius, 1 species of wild rice related to salt marsh grass, i.e., Porteresia coarctata, 3 species of macro-algae, 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 planted Sonarattia 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.*

**Key words:** Aquatic macrophytes, Salt marsh, Mangrove, Macro-algae, Salimpur, Chittagong

### INTRODUCTION

Bangladesh is blessed with an extensive coastline of about 710 km, which is mostly covered by varieties of coastal living resources such as mangroves, salt marshes, sea grasses, macro and micro algae and fisheries (Pramanik, 1988). These coastal resources play a vital role in the life history development and food source of many coastal organisms. It is also well established that the coastal environment of Bangladesh is highly productive in terms of nutrient input from different sources, and promote the other living resources in the vicinity of the coastal environment. The diverse living resources in the coastal areas play an important role on the national economy as well as promote the socio-economic well-being of the coastal poor communities. Although these coastal resources contribute a vital role in the ecosystem and have a great significance in economic aspect, the study on the coastal plant resources and their usefulness are very limited. Till to date, except the studies by Das and Siddiqi (1985), no systematic investigation or inventory has been carried out on the diversity of the coastal macrophyte