

EUTROPHICATION IN THE CUNOVO RESERVOIR

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Eutrophication is a very complicated process, causing an increase in phytoplankton biomass. The reason for this is a high input of nutrients, mainly nitrogen and phosphorus. The richness of nutrients in the Danube river creates a suitable trophic basis for phytoplankton development in the reservoir. The study of photosynthesis yields information on the initiation of the eutrophication process and on the causes of water quality deterioration.

A three-year study on the eutrophication of the Cunovo reservoir was carried out by the Water Research Institute in Bratislava. Primary phytoplankton production was studied from 1994 to 1996. Algae, the autotrophic micro-organisms, produce oxygen, the secondary product of photosynthesis. Additional determinants, such as nutrients, phytoplankton abundance and biomass, water transparency and pH were also measured. Measurements were mainly carried out at the sides of the reservoir, where a worse situation was expected.
