

A LIMNOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE VOLTA GRANDE RESERVOIR, MINAS GERAIS/SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL*

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ABSTRACT

This study describes certain limnological aspects of the Volta Grande Reservoir, located in the middle reaches of the river Grande, on the boundary of the states of Minas Gerais and São Paulo in Brazil. Sampling was carried out through a stretch of approximately 100 km between the Jaguara dam and Volta Grande. The methodology differed according to three habitats identified. The lacustrine zone was sampled randomly, with physico-chemical and biological parameters being determined at two depths. The transitional and riverine zones were sampled at just one depth at predetermined points located along the river Grande and its main affluents. Temperature was measured at one metre intervals along the water column (lacustrine zone). No stratification was observed. Other physico-chemical parameters measured showed values typical of other South American waters. High densities of phytoplankton were found. Rotifers were the dominant element of the zooplankton.

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