UNIVERSITY OF RUHUNA

Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and Marine Sciences degree,

Level II Semester I – 2016 July/August

LIM2121 – Aquatic Biodiversity

Answer **all** questions

Time: 1 hour

1. Abundance and biomass data of aquatic plants collected from a lake are given in the following table.

Plant species	Abundance (number/m^2)	Biomass (g drywt)
Eichornia crassipes	50	800
Lemna minor	150	20
Nymphea sp.	2	200
Typha latifolia	6	1300
Eleocharis sp.	5	600
Monochoria sp.	18	52
Chara sp.	200	26
Ceratophyllum sp.	80	32
Nitella sp.	20	4
Cyperus ferrugineus	8	400
Pistia sp.	14	90
Ceratopteris cornuta	8	400
Salvinia molesta	12	72
Azolla sp.	500	35
Sagitiaria	4	50
Alternanthera	35	10

i). Analyse the given data in the above table using suitable indices/graphs and explain the dominance of aquatic plants in the ecosystem

ii). Identify the key aquatic plant species and explain their ecological role in the ecosystem