

Table 1 Variations in physico chemical parameters in Ashtamudi estuary during the study period

Parameters	Ashramam	Kavanad	Ashtamudi
Water Temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	30	28.5	28
pH	6.87	7.49	7.8
Salinity(ppt)	26	24	20
Carbon dioxide (mg.l^{-1})	17.6	13.2	18.7
Dissolved oxygen (mg.l^{-1})	5.8	6.8	5.1
Nitrate- nitrogen ($\mu\text{mol.l}^{-1}$)	0.11	0.44	0.05
Nitrite- nitrogen ($\mu\text{mol.l}^{-1}$)	0.16	0.02	1.27
Ammonia- nitrogen ($\mu\text{mol.l}^{-1}$)	3.57	1.00	3.76
Phosphate-phosphorus ($\mu\text{mol.l}^{-1}$)	0.63	1.48	1.93
Silicate- silicon ($\mu\text{mol.l}^{-1}$)	3.59	7.45	6.69