

(A) (9)

## Economic importance of algae

Many algae are used by human beings for food, manufacture, iodine in some other purpose from ancient time. Many researches are being done in phycology and many workers are trying to find out the food value of algae, their importance in agricultures. The importance of role played by algae in the world is becoming more appreciate of each day because of the increased utilization that many of them are valuable to man value is as under.

1. Algae as food: → Large number of algae are used as source of food by human beings. The one such is Carbohydrates, inorganic substances and vitamins. Vitamins A, C, D and E are main constituents of these plants. Porphyra nesa is very popular and eaten throughout Japan. Laminaria is used in Japan as standard food.

2. Algae in industry: → Diatom prepare diatomaceous earth and is extensively used in sugar refineries and soap manufacture. It is also helpful in cement industry with manufacture of



dyonite. Rubber and blotting paper. It is also helpful in isolation of boilers, blast furnaces and at various other places where very high temperature (1000°C) is required. Algin is extracted by boiling algae. washing soda solution and rollers of type writers are prepared from it. Japanese prepare artificial coal from algae like *Cladium* is used in sizing of textiles. Algae *Chondrus* and *Caragagernium* which yield a mucilage is used in manufacture of leaf hats as stiffening agent. It has the properties of agar.

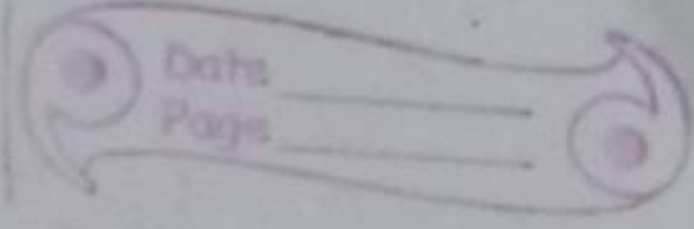
and therefore used as ingredient of cosmetics, Shaving Creams, Shoe polishes and Shampoos.

⇒ Algae →

⇒ As sources of Iodine and Bromine - Laминаria is source of iodine. Bromine is obtained from red algae like *Rhodospira* and *Polysiphonia*.



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- ⇒ Antibiotics and medicines :→ Some algae yield antibiotic. eg. Chlorocellin is obtained from green alga Chlorella.
- ⇒ polyriphonia produce antibacterial substances which are effective against gram-negative and gram-positive bacteria.
- ⇒ Fertilizers :→ Due to presence of phosphorous, potassium, calcium and traces elements, the sea weed are used as fertilizers.

From above discussion it is clear, that algae are of great importance to human being.

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