



Azolla

*Azolla* is a heterosporous free-floating aquatic fern distributed in freshwater habitats all over the world (Wagner, 1997). *Azolla pinnata*, *A. nilotica*, *A. caroliniana*, *A. filiculoides*, *A. microphylla* and *A. rubra* are six species of *Azolla* belonging to family Azollaceae (Mandal *et al.*, 2012). It has symbiotic association with blue green algae, *Anabaena azollae* and thus capable of fixing atmospheric nitrogen (Tung and Shen, 1981). It is commonly known as mosquito fern and can be used as biofertiliser in agricultural fields, livestock feed, water purifier (Pabby *et al.*, 2003; Ahilan *et al.*, 2005; Mandal *et al.*, 2012; Mahalingam *et al.*, 2014). It also reduces the growth of aquatic weeds. In addition to this, utilisation of *Azolla* as fish feed contributed to the increase in overall pond productivity (Pullin and Almazan, 1983). *Azolla* is a highly preferred source of protein owing to meet the dietary requirements of the aquatic organisms mainly finfishes and shellfishes (Mandal *et al.*, 2010). Sood *et al.* (2012) noted the application of *Azolla* in phytoremediation.