FIRST RECORD OF THE ICHTHYOFAUNAL DIVERSITY OF KANTELI STREAM, KALISINDH RIVER, DISTRICT JHALAWAR, RAJASTHAN

HARINDER SINGH BANYAL and SANJEEV KUMAR

Desert Regional Centre, Zoological Survey of India, Jodhpur-342005 (Rajasthan).

The state of Rajasthan is wellknown for its diverse topography and drainage system. Western part is famous for the Thar Desert, whereas eastern and southern parts are known for the Aravalis. Many hill streams are present in southern Rajasthan. Jhalawar district lies in the south-eastern part of Rajasthan, at the edge of the Malwa plateau. It has rocky, but water-laden verdant settings, unlike much of Rajasthan. The Aravali hills crosses the region, roughly dividing the plains of Hadoti from the Malwa plateau. Jhalawar is drained by several rivers, giving it a fertile look. The largest river flowing through the area is Kalisindh, which flows through Jhalawar to join the Rajasthan's largest river, Chambal. Kanteli stream is an important part of the drainage basin. These riverine systems are known for rich aquatic faunal diversity. The Ichthyofaunal diversity of this stream is however, still unknown. While surveying the faunal diversity of Silehgarh region in Jhalawar district, during 2014, Kanteli stream was assessed for its fish faunal diversity.

Fishes were collected mainly by using cast & gill nets. The fishes were preserved in 10% formalin for further studies and later identified following standard literarture and Froese & Pauly (2014).

Dubey & Mehra (1959) have described 71 species of fishes from Chambal. Ridhi et al. (2012) have recorded 22 species of fish from Madhya Pradesh portion and Banyal & Kumar (2013) have recorded 54 species of fish from Rajasthan portion of river Chambal. Gupta & Kulshreshta (1985) have recorded 57 species of fish from Jhalawar district, whereas Banyal & Kumar (2015) have reported 17 species of fish from Kalisindh river.

No major account is available showing the fish fauna from Kanteli stream. In this context, Kanteli stream was surveyed, near to Silehgarh town (N 24° 14.659'and E 075° 50.714'). Following species of fishes were identified from the total fish catch:

Class: Actinopterygii
Order: Cypriniformes
Family: Cyprinidae
Genus: *Systomus* McClelland
1. *Systomus sarana* (Hamilton, 1822)
Genus : *Labeo* Cuvier
2. *Labeo boggut* (Sykes, 1839)
Genus: *Salmophasia* Swainson
3. *Salmophasia bacaila* (Hamilton, 1822)
Genus: *Garra* Hamilton
4. *Garra gotyla gotyla* (Gray, 1832)
Genus: *Rasbora* Bleeker
5. *Rasbora daniconius* (Hamilton, 1822)
Order: Siluriformes
Family: Bagridae
Genus: *Mystus* Scopoli
6. *Mystus bleekeri* (Day, 1877)
Order: Perciformes
Family: Ambassidae
Genus: *Chanda* Hamilton
7. *Chanda nama* Hamilton, 1822
Family: Gobiidae
Genus: *Glossogobius* Gill
8. *Glossogobius giuris* (Hamilton)

Systomus sarana was maximum in catches.

Removal of bed material of the main stream for stone crushers and illegal fishing were rampant during the period of study. Its water was also utilised illegally for irrigation. Conservation measures should be taken up by the authorities.

Acknowledgement: Authors are thankful to Dr. Kailash Chandra, Director, Zoological Survey of India, for providing necessary facilities to undertake the study.

References

Banyal, H.S. & Kumar, Sanjeev 2015. Fish diversity of Chambal River, Rajasthan State. In: *Aqautic Ecosystem, Ecology & Conservation* (Eds. M. Rawat et al.). Springer Publishers, India, 15: 271-281.

Banyal, H.S. & Kumar, Sanjeev 2015. On the Ichthyofaunal diversity of Kalisindh River at Gagron Fort, Jhalawar, Rajasthan. *Bionotes*, 17(4): 102-103.

Dubey, G.P. & Mehra, R.K. 1959. Fish and Fisheries of Chambal River. *Proc 1st All India Cong. Zool*, 1(2): 647-665.

Froese, R. & Pauly, D. (Ed.) 2014. Fish Base. *World Wide Web electronic publ.*

Gupta, S.N. & Kulshreshtha 1985. Fish & Fishery of the district Jhalawar, Rajasthan. *Intl. J. Acad. Ichthyol. Proc. (VAISI)*, 6: 91-96.

Ridhi, Jha, B. C, Parashar, A., Das, A. K., & Bose, A.K. 2012. Ichthyofaunal diversity of Chambal River in Madhya Pradesh. In: *Biodiversity, Issues, Threats and Conservation* (Eds. Pandey, B.P. et al.). Narendra Publ. House, Delhi: 192 pp. (47-53).