

**Full Length Research Paper****Checklist on Hthyofaunal Diversity of Katisanghavi (Bhima river) and Tintni (Krishna river) of Northern Karnataka****K. Renuka* and Heena Mubeen***Department of Zoology, Gulbarga University, Gulbarga - 585 106, Karnataka, India****Corresponding Author: K. Renuka****Abstract**

Fish diversity of northern Karnataka is rarely studied and that in Gulbarga and Raichur are spare. The present study was carried out to fill this gap of knowledge on fish diversity in this region. The study revealed the presence of twenty two species of fishes belonging to four orders; [Cypriniformes, Perciformes, Siluriformes and Osteogloformes]. The pre dominant orders of these areas are Cypriniformes, Perciformes and Siluriformes. The highest numbers of 07 species were recorded from the order Cypriniformes.

Keywords: *Cypriniformes, Perciformes, Siluriformes, Osteogloformes, Bhima river, Krishna river*

Introduction

In India 2500 Fish species has been recorded of which 930 are from fresh water habitat and 1570 from marine waters. Fish as food has been harvested for several decades, but since past 3-4 decades the exploitations has been on an intensive scale resulting in diminished populations (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991). In fresh water habitats, the main causes for the decline of indigenous fish and fisheries resources are siltation, mining activities, land use activities etc. Added to this, water bodies are treated as dumping ground for garbage, sewage, industrial effluents etc. leading to pollution of the water source of fishes. Constructions of dams and weirs and barrages have resulted in stagnant water bodies which lead to the growth of obnoxious weeds, which cause hindrance in fish normal growth. All these human created disturbances are the major cause for drastic decrease in fish diversity.

The present study is carried out at Kattisangavi (tributary of Bhima River, Gulbarga district N latitude 17 ° north) and Tintini (tributary of Krishna River, Raichur district of Northern Karnataka). These rivers are considered as life line of Gulbarga and Raichur district respectively. The present investigation is an attempt to understand the fish diversity of these two places, since there have been no reports on fish diversity earlier from these spots.

Materials and method:

As the objective of this study was to observe the ichthyofaunal diversity from Kattisangavi tributary of Bhima river - flowing through Gulbarga district and Tintini tributary of Krishna river flowing through, Tintini, Raichur district, Karnataka - India. The observations were made fortnightly from March to May, 2014.

The materials used were fishing net, bin, fish weighing machine, standard measuring scale in centimeters, digital camera (Sony Cyber shot DSC – W 220 14.1MP). The fishes were collected fortnightly with the help of local fisherman from the two spots for three months that is March, April and May, 2014 using the fishing net. Immediately the netted fish were unloaded to the bin. The fishes were then weighed using the standard weighing machine and simultaneously the length was measured from snout to tail using standards measuring scale in centimeters. Later the fishes were photographed using Sony Cyber shot – DSS W220 14.1 mega pixel camera and the fishes were released back into the river. Fishes were identified and classified based on their morphology and scales (Jhingran, 1992).

Results and discussion

From Bhima river, 15 species of fishes were identified which belong to 9 families and 12 different genera. Fishes belonged to Families of Cyprinidae, Notopteridae, Bagridae, Siluridae, Channidae, Siganidae, Ambassidae, Cichlidae and Mastacembelidae. All the fishes are useful as food fishes which are having high market value. Predatory fish *Channa punctatus* was also recorded. From Krishna river, 11 species of fishes were identified which belong to 6 families and 8 different genera. Fishes belonging to families Cyprinidae, Bagridae, Siluridae, Channidae, Sisoridae and Cichlidae were observed. All these fishes are of high commercial value.

From the visit we were able to collect around 17 fishes from both the rivers belonging to four orders. The order Cypriniformes is dominant with 5 fishes followed by order Perciformes with 4 fishes and Siluriformes with 3 fishes and Osteoglossiformes with one.

The detailed results is as follows

Order Cypriniformes :

Family – Cyprinidae: the fishes were *Labeo rohita*, *Cirrhinus mrigala*, *Rohtee ogilbii*, *Labeo boggut*, *Catla catla*, *Labeo calbasu* and *Labeo fimbriatus*.

Order Perciformes :

Family - Channidae: the fishes were *Channa marulius*, *Channa striatus* and *Channa punctatus*.

Family - Cichlidae: the fish observed was *Oreochromis niloticus*.

Family – Siganidae: the fish observed was *Siganus vermiculatus*.

Family – Ambassidae: the fish observed was *Chanda nama*.

Order Siluriformes :

Family – Siluridae: the fishes observed were *Ompok bimaculatus*, *Ompok pabo*.

Family – Mastacembelidae: the fish observed was *Mastacembelus armatus*.

Family – Bagridae: the fish observed were *Mystus seengala* and *Rita buchanani*.

Family – Sisoridae: the fish observed was *Glyptothorax poonaensis*.

Order Osteoglossiformes :

Family – Notopteridae: the fish observed was *Notopterus notopterus*.

The only report from this area was by Vijaylaxmi et al., (2010), who reported that order Cypriniformes was dominant with sixteen fish species from three different spots of Bhima river were as the present works shows seven different species from order Cypriniformes. Vijaylaxmi et al., (2010) reported fishes from Perciformes and Channiformes each with one species were in this study reveals six species of fishes from Perciformes. This study also reveals six different species from order Siluriformes and one species from order Osteoglossiformes from Kattisangavi and Tintini of Gulbarga and Raichur district.

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