

Short Communication

A NOTE ON A SMALL COLLECTION OF FISHES FROM PENNAIYAR RIVER, TAMIL NADU

River Pennaiyar is one of the major river systems of South Arcot district. So far there is no report on the Ichthyofauna of this river, which originates in Western Ghats near Mysore and traverses the districts of Dharmapuri, North Arcot and South Arcot before it joins the Bay of Bengal, near Cuddalore.

While studying the Ichthyofauna of South Arcot district, the authors had an opportunity to collect and study fishes from river Pennaiyar. Collections were made from three locations along the river : (1) Anaicut near Thirukovilur (2) near Thapovanam and (3) At Villipuram. A total of 1437 exs. were collected.

Out of 41 primary and 17 secondary freshwater fishes recorded from South Arcot district, during the present survey, 33 species were encountered from the river Pennaiyar alone.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES COLLECTED FROM THE RIVER

Order : Osteoglossiformes

Suborder : Notopteroidei

Family : NOTOPTERIDAE

1. *Notopterus notopterus* (Pallas)—2 exs.

Order : Anguilliformes

Family : ANGUILLIDAE

2. *Anguilla bengalensis* (Gray)—6 exs.

Order : Cypriniformes

Family : CYPRINIDAE

Subfamily : CYPRININAE

3. *Puntius amphibius* (Val.)—1 ex.
4. *P. chola* (Ham.)—3 exs.
5. *P. conchoni* (Ham.)—2 exs.
6. *P. dorsalis* (Jerdon)—6 exs.
7. *P. fraseri* (Hora)—2 exs.
8. *P. sophore* (Ham.)—95 exs.

9. *P. ticto* (Ham.)—29 exs.
10. *P. vittatus* (Day)—6 exs.
Subfamily : RASBORINAE
11. *Amblypharyngodon microlepis* (Blkr)—28 exs.
12. *Barilius bendelisis* (Ham.)—56 exs.
13. *Brachydanio rerio* (Ham.)—3 exs.
14. *Esomus barbatus* (Jerdon)—232 exs.
15. *Esomus danricus* (Ham.)—27 exs.
16. *Parluciosoma daniconius* (Ham.)—408 exs.
17. *Rasbora caverii* (Jerdon)—127 exs.
Subfamily : GARRINAE
18. *Garra gotyla stenorhynchus* (Jerdon)—1 ex.
19. *Garra mullya* (Sykes)—4 exs.
Family : COBITIDAE
20. *Lepidocephalus thermalis* (Val.)—228 exs.
Order : Siluriformes
Family : BAGRIDAE
21. *Mystus keletius* (Val.)—46 exs.
Family : SCHILBEIDAE
22. *Pseudeutropius atherinoides* (Bloch)—30 exs.
Order : Cyprinodontiformes
Family : ORYZIIDAE
23. *Oryzias melastigma* (Mc Cll.)—27 exs.
Family : POECILIDAE
24. *Gambusia affinis* (Baird & Girard)—15 exs.
Order : Perciformes
Family : AMBASSIDAE
25. *Chanda nama* (Ham.)—1 ex.
Family : CICHLIDAE
26. *Etroplus maculatus* (Bloch)—9 exs.
27. *Oreochromis mossambica* (Peters)—2 exs.

- Family : GOBIIDAE
28. *Glossogobius giuris* (Ham.)—26 exs.
- Family : MUGILIDAE
29. *Mugil cephalus* Linnaeus—2 exs.
- Order : Channiformes
- Family : CHANNIDAE
30. *Channa orientalis* Bloch & Sch.—2 exs.
31. *Channa punctatus* (Bloch)—4 exs.
- Order : Mastacembeliformes
- Family : MASTACEMBELIDAE
32. *Mastacembelus armatus* (Lacepede)—7 exs.
33. *Macrogathus aral* (Bloch & Sch.)—1 ex.

The following 11 species were collected solely from this river in South Arcot district, (1) *Notopterus notopterus*, (2) *Puntius conchoniis*, (3) *Barilius bendelisis*, (4) *Brachydanio rerio*, (5) *Garra gotyla stenorhynchus*, (6) *Garra mullya*, (7) *Mystus keletius*, (8) *Gambusia affinis*, (9) *Channa orientalis*, (10) *Macrogathus aral* & (11) *Mastacembelus armatus*.

Earlier Jayaram (1982) reported 142 species of fishes from the east flowing river Cauvery of which 78 were from the Tamil Nadu part of the river. Present report on yet another east flowing river Pennaiyar originating from the Western Ghats, includes some interesting hill stream fishes viz. *Garra gotyla stenorhynchus*, *Barilius bendelisis* and *Brachydanio rerio*, of these, the occurrence of one specimen of the highly specialized hill stream fish *G. g. stenorhynchus* in the plains of South Arcot could be the result of this species being washed off by the running waters. Jayaram (1982) also collected one specimen of the species from the upper anaicut of Cauvery river near Trichy. Another significant observation is the occurrence of 3 specimens of *B. rerio*, in Pennaiyar. This species was earlier reported only from torrential streams. Jayaram (Op. cit) reported its presence from the mountain streams of Karnataka. This is the first report of this species from the plains of Tamil Nadu.

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REFERENCES

- Jayaram, K. C., Venkateswarlu, T. and Raghunathan, M. B., 1982. A survey of the Cauvery river system with a major account of its fish fauna *Rec. zool. Surv. India, Miss. Publ. Occ. Pap.* No. 36 : 1-115, pls. I-XII.

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