

REPORT ON THE ICHTHYOFAUNA OF KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT,  
TAMIL NADU

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INTRODUCTION

During the years 1988-89, Zoological Survey of India, Southern Regional Station, Madras, carried out two extensive surveys of Kanyakumari District, Tamil Nadu, under the District Survey scheme, by Dr. K. V. Lakshminarayana, Scientist 'SE' and Dr. Koshy Mathew, Scientist 'SD'. Kanyakumari District is the southernmost district of Tamil Nadu and Indian Mainland. The district has a rich share of ponds, rivers and reservoirs. Fishes were collected from various habitats like ponds, streams, rivers and reservoirs.

A total of 630 specimens were collected and identified, and belong to 7 orders, 15 families and 42 species. Most of the specimens were registered and the register number are given in bracket.

As there is neither a comprehensive account on the freshwater fish fauna of this district available in the district Gazetteer, nor is the work of Singh (1976) complete, the present study may be of use to improve our knowledge on the Ichthyofauna of Kanyakumari district. An interesting colour variety of *Puntius filamentosus* (Val.) was noted in this district.

*List of Species*

Super Order : ELOPOMORPHA

I Order : ELOPIFORMES

Family : MEGALOPIDAE

1. *Megalops cyprinoides* (Broussonet) ... 12 exs.

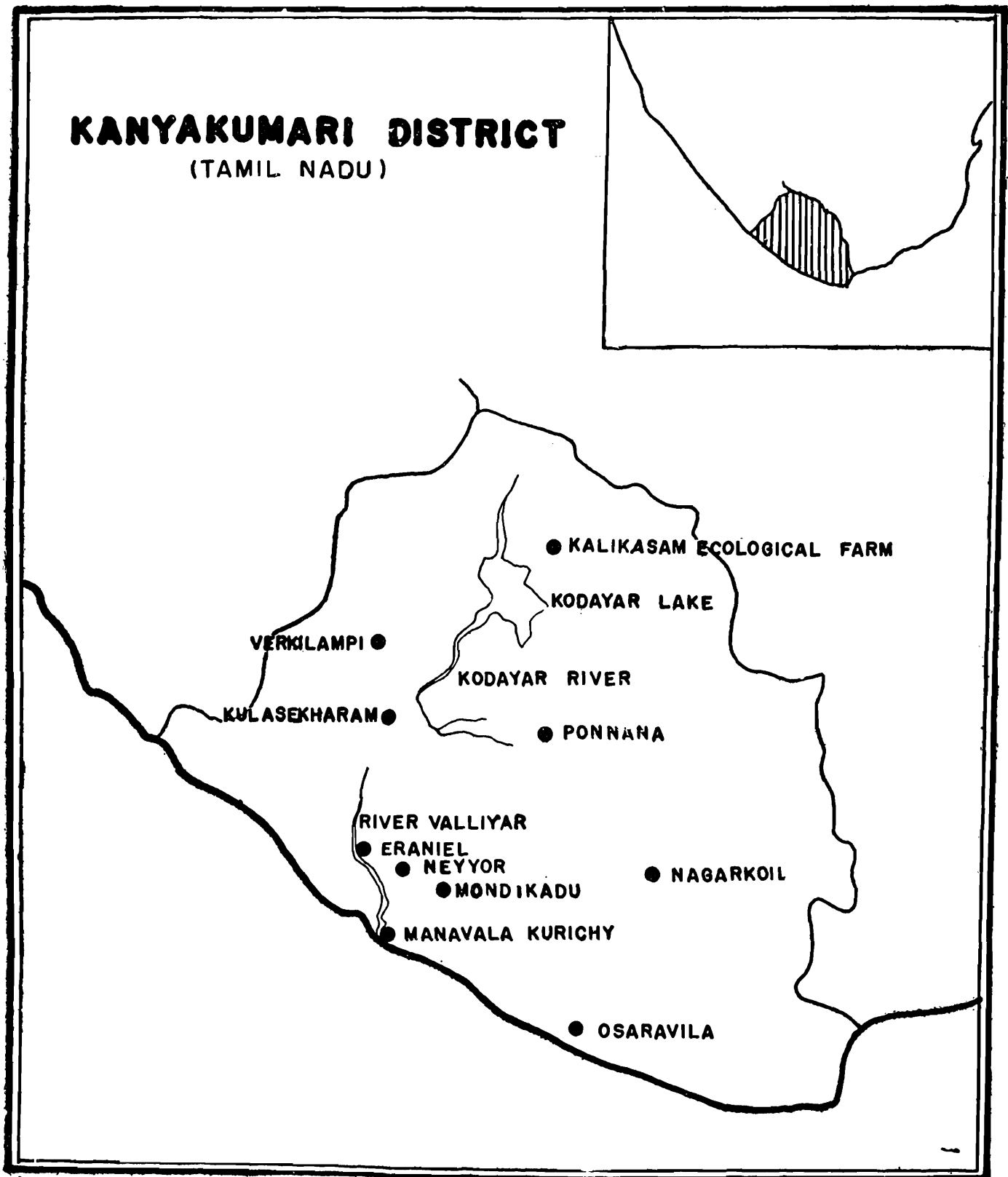
Super Order : OSTARIOPHYSI

II Order : CYPRINIFORMES

Family : CYPRINIDAE

Subfamily : CULTRINAE

2. *Salmostoma bacaila* (Ham.) ... 10 exs.  
3. *Salmostoma clupeoides* (Bloch) ... 4 exs.



## Subfamily : RASBORINAE

4.	<i>Amblypharyngodon microlepis</i> (Bleeker)	...	57 exs.
5.	<i>Danio (D.) aequipinnatus</i> (Mc Cl),	...	15 exs.
6.	<i>Eisomus barbatus</i> (Jerdon)	...	15 exs.
7.	<i>Rasbora (R.) daniconicus</i> (Ham.)	...	45 exs.

## Subfamily : CYPRININAE

8.	<i>Puntius amphibius</i> (Val.)	...	5 exs.
9.	<i>Puntius chola</i> (Ham.)	...	1 ex.
10.	<i>Puntius dorsalis</i> (Jerdon)	...	14 exs.
11.	<i>Puntius melanampyx melanampyx</i> (Day)	...	65 exs.
12.	<i>Puntius filamentosus</i> (Val.)	...	30 exs.
13.	<i>Puntius sarana subnasutus</i> (Val.)	...	4 exs.
14.	<i>Puntius sophore</i> (Ham.)	...	8 exs.
15.	<i>Puntius vittatus</i> (Day)	...	34 exs.
16.	<i>Tor khudree malabaricus</i> (Jerdon)	...	7 exs.

## Subfamily : GARRINAE

17.	<i>Garra mullya</i> (Sykes)	...	5 exs.
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## Family : HOMALOPTERIDAE

## Subfamily : NOEMACHEILINAE

18.	<i>Noemacheilus triangularis</i> (Day)	...	14 exs.
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## Family : COBITIDAE

## Subfamily : COBITINAE

19.	<i>Lepidocephalus thermalis</i> (Val.)	...	55 exs.
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## Order : SILURIFORMES

## Family : BAGRIDAE

20.	<i>Mystus armatus</i> (Day)	...	1 ex.
21.	<i>Mystus montanus</i> (Jerdon)	...	21 exs.
22.	<i>Mystus oculatus</i> (Val.)	...	3 exs.
23.	<i>Mystus vittatus</i> (Bloch)	...	1 ex.

	Family	: HETEROPNEUSTIDAE		
24.	<i>Heteropneustes fossilis</i> (Bloch)		...	1 ex.
	Order	: ATHERINIFORMES		
	Family	: CYPRINODONTIDAE		
25.	<i>Aplocheilus blochii</i> (Arnold)		...	16 exs.
26.	<i>Aplocheilus lineatus</i> (Val.)		...	9 exs.
	Family	: POECILIDAE		
27.	<i>Gambusia affinis patruelis</i> (Baird & Girard)		...	15 exs.
	Order	: CHANNIFORMES		
	Family	: CHANNIDAE		
28.	<i>Channa orientalis</i> (Schneider)		...	21 exs.
29.	<i>Channa punctatus</i> (Bloch)		...	1 exs.
	Order	: PERCIFORMES		
	Family	: CHANDIDAE		
30.	<i>Ambassis commersonii</i> Val.		...	7 exs.
	Family	: CICHLIDAE		
31.	<i>Etroplus maculatus</i> (Bloch)		...	43 exs.
32.	<i>Etroplus suratensis</i> (Bloch)		...	12 exs.
33.	<i>Oreochromis mossambica</i> (Peters)		...	33 exs.
	Family	: MUGILIDAE		
34.	<i>Liza parsia</i> (Ham.)		...	1 ex.
35.	<i>Mugil cephalus</i> Linnaeus		...	1 ex.
	Family	: GOBIDAE		
36.	<i>Awaous grammepomus</i> (Blkr.)		...	3 exs.
37.	<i>Glossogobius biocellatus</i> (Val.)		...	1 ex.
38.	<i>Glossogobius giuris</i> (Ham.)		...	3 exs.
39.	<i>Oligolepis acutipennis</i> (C. & V.)		...	2 exs.
40.	<i>Stigmatogobius javanicus</i> (Blkr.)		...	7 exs.

Family : BELONTIDAE

41. *Macropodus cupanus* Val. ... 22 exs.

Order : MASTACEMBELIFORMES

Family : MASTACEMBELIDAE

42. *Mastacembelus guntheri* Day ... 4 exs.

**Megalops cyprinoides** (Broussonet)

1782. *Clupea cyprinoides* Broussonet, *Ichthyol.*, pl. 9

*Type locality* : Oceans between the Tropics.

*Material* : 12 exs., 90-110 mm. SL., Puthurkayal at Mondikadu, 21 km. West of Nagarkoil., 9.10.89, (F. 2880).

*Distribution* : Indo-West Pacific. A coastal pelagic species, ascending rivers.

**Salmostoma bacaila** (Hamilton)

1822. *Cyprinus bacaila* Hamilton, *Fish Ganges*, p. 265, 384, pl. 8., fig. 76

*Type locality* : Rivers of Gangetic Provinces.

*Material* : 5 exs., 73-93 mm. SL., Velliyakulam pond, Manavalakurichy village., 17.7.89 (F. 2647); 3 exs. 85-95 mm. SL., Thengaramkulam, 16 Km. West of Nagarkoil., 18.8.89, (F. 2665); 2 exs., 77-85 mm. SL., Periyakulam Reservoir., 25.8.89, (F. 2677).

*Distribution* : Throughout India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

**Salmostoma clupeoides** (Bloch)

1795. *Cyprinus clupeoides* Bloch, *Naturg. Ausland. Fische*, 12, p. 49, pl. 408, fig. 2.

*Type locality* : Tranquebar).

*Material* : 4 exs., 92-100 mm. SL., Puthurkayal, Mondikadu, 21 km. West of Nagarkoil., 9.10.89 ; (F. 2882).

*Distribution* : Narmada, Tapi, Krishna, Godavary and Cauvery river systems. Recorded from Nasik, Deolali and Jabalpur.

**Amblypharyngodon microlepis** (Bleeker)

1853. *Leuciscus microlepis* Bleeker, *Verh. batav. Genoot. Kunst. Wet.* 25, p. 41.

*Type locality* : River Hooghly.

*Material* : 7 exs., 48-65 mm. SL., Velliyakulam pond, Manavalakurichy., 17.7.89 (F. 2651); 32 exs., 41-71 mm. SL., Thengaramkulam, 16 Km. West of Nagarkoil.,

18.8.89 (F. 2660) ; 16 exs., 72-77 mm. SL., Therpakulam pond near Verkilampi ; 7.10.89 (Fig. 2887) ; 2 exs., 62-70 mm. SL., Puthurkayal at Mondikadu, 21 Km. West of Nagarkoil., 9.10.89 (F. 2881).

*Distribution* : Throughout India, except Western India.

### **Danio D. aequipinnatus (Mc Clelland)**

1839. *Perilampus aequipinnatus* Mc Clelland, *Asiatic Researchers*, 19, p. 393.

*Type locality* : Assam.

*Material* : 4 exs., 21-55 mm. SL., Kalikasam Ecological farm., 25.3.88 (F. 1374) ; 4 exs., 45-60 mm. SL., Ponnana, on way to Kulasekharam., 26.3.88 ; 4 exs., 17-28 mm. SL., Molayar River., 28.3.88 ; 2 exs., 30-31 mm. SL., Lower Kodayar 17.3.89 (F. 2476) ; 1 ex., 20 mm., SL., Thengaramkulam pond, 16 Km. West of Nagarkoil., 18.8.89 (F. 2667).

*Distribution* : Eastern Himalaya, Meghalaya, Deccan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand and Sri Lanka.

### **Esomus baratus (Jerdon)**

1949. *Leuciscus barbatus* Jerdon, *J. Lit. Sic.*, 15, p. 322.

*Type locality* : Rivers and tanks all over Mysore, Karnataka.

*Material* : 10 exs., 44-70 mm. SL., Thengaramkulam, 16 Km. West of Nagarkoil., 18.8.89 (F. 2666) ; 2 exs., 59-64 mm. SL., Periyakulam Reservoir near Manavalakurichy., 20.9.89 (F. 2883) ; 3 exs., 76-85 mm. SL., Therpakulam pond near Verkilampi (F. 2886).

*Distribution* : Confined to Southern India.

### **Rasbora (R.) daniconius (Hamilton)**

1822. *Cyprinus daniconius* Hamilton, *Fish Ganges*, p. 327, p. 15, fig. 89.

*Type locality* : Rivers of Southern Bengal.

*Material* : 4 exs., 18-72 mm. SL., Kalikasam Ecological farm., 25.3.88 (F. 1375) ; 1 ex., 50 mm. SL., Vaalathivayal on Paraliyar road., 26.3.88 (F. 1656) ; 5 exs., 26-51 mm. SL., Ponnana on way to Kulasekharam., 26.3.88 ; 7 exs., 15-26 mm. SL., Mylar Odai, Kodayar river., 28.3.88 ; 10 exs., 16-30 mm. SL., Lower Kodayar, 17.3.89 (F. 2479) ; 2 exs., 61-65 mm. SL., Velliyakulam pond, Manavalakurichy village, Nagarkoil., 17.7.89 (F. 2649) ; 6 exs., 46-89 mm. SL., Thengaramkulam, 16 Km., West of Periyakulam Reservoir., 25.8.89 (F. 2656) ; 10 exs., 80-87 mm. SL., Therpakulam pond near Verkilampi., 7.10.89 (F. 2888).

*Distribution* : Throughout India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Burma and Malayan Archipelago.

**Puntius amphibius (Valenciennes)**

1842. *Capoeta amphibia* Valenciennes, *Hist. Nat. Poiss.*, **16**, p. 282, 478.

*Type locality* : Bombay.

*Material* ; 2 exs., 75-85 mm. SL., Therpakulum pond near Verkilampi. 7.10.89 (F. 2884) ; 1 ex., 59 mm. SL., Paruthikulam pond near Eraniel., 8.10.89 (F. 2867) ; 1 ex., 72 mm. SL., Pazamkulam pond at Karunyal road in Monday Market, Neyyor., 9.10.89 (F. 3531) ; 1 ex., 43 mm. SL., Thengaramkulam, 16 Km. West of Nagarkoil., 18.8.89 (F. 2658).

*Distribution* : Freshwaters of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and South India, Sri Lanka.

**Puntius chola (Hamilton)**

1822. *Cyprinus chola* Hamilton, *Fish Ganges*, p. 312, 313.

*Type locality* : North-eastern parts of Bengal.

*Material* : 1 ex., 65 mm. SL., Velliyakulam pond, Manavalakurichy village, Nagarkoil., 17.7.89 (F. 2648).

*Distribution* : Throughout India. Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma and Sri Lanka.

**Puntius dorsalis (Jerdon)**

1849. *Systemus dorsalis* Jerdon, *Madras J. Lit. & Sci.* p. 314, 316.

*Type locality* : Tanks and rivers in the neighbourhood of Madras.

*Material* ; 1 ex., 21 mm. SL., Thothykadu., 15.3.89 (F. 2450) ; 13 exs., 43-110 mm. SL., Paruthikulam pond near Eraniel., 8.10.89 (F. 2869).

*Distribution* : Rivers of Krishna, Cauvery, Coleroon in South India.

**Puntius melanampyx melanampyx (Day)**

1865. *Labeo melanampyx* Day, *Proc. zool. Soc. London*, p. 298.

*Type locality* : Wynaad.

*Material* : 44 exs., 10-41 mm. SL., Kalikasam Ecological Farm., 25.3.88 (F. 1376) ; 12 exs., 15-52 mm. SL., Ponnana on Kulasekharam Road, 26.3.88 (F. 1650) ; 7 exs., 15-25 mm. SL., Mylar Odai, Kodayar River., 28.3.88 ; 1 ex., 16 mm. SL., on way to Kodayar Power House., 30.3.88 (F. 1654) ; 1 ex., 20 mm. SL., Lower Kodayar., 17.3.89 (F. 2481).

*Distribution* : Wynaad, Nilgiris, Travancore range of Hills and Cauvery river.

**Puntius filamentosus** (Valenciennes)

(Plate I, fig. 1 &amp; 2)

1844. *Leuciscus filamentosus* Valenciennes, *Hist. Nat. Poiss.*, 17., p. 96, pl. 492.*Type locality* : Alleppey, Kerala.*Material* : 6 exs., 75-85 mm. SL., Periyakulam Reservoir., 25.8.89 (F. 2672) ; 24 exs., 54-85 mm. SL. Periyakulam Reservoir, 20.9.89 (F. 2881).*Distribution* : From Canara down the West coast and along the base of Nilgiris and Travancore Hills. Sri Lanka.*Remarks* : The present material collected from Periyakulam Reservoir, Kanyakumari, differ from *Puntius filamentosus* in having a very long black blotch on the caudal peduncle and in the absence of black and red cross bars on the caudal fin, instead there is a thick red band on the caudal and anal fins. This may be a colour variety of *P. filamentosus* (Val.) since all other morphometric characters are identical with the typical *P. filamentosus*.**Puntius sarana subnasutus** (Valenciennes)1865. *Cyclochelichthys pinnauratus* Day, *Proc. zool. Soc. London*, p. 300. *Fish Malabar*. p. 209, pl. 15, fig. 2.*Type locality* : Wynaad.*Material* : 4 exs., 77-100 mm. SL., Paruthikulam near Eraniel., 8.10.89 (F. 2868).*Distribution* : River systems in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.**Puntius sophore** (Hamilton)1822. *Cyprinus sophore* Hamilton, *Fish Ganges*, p. 310, 319 ; pl. 19.*Type locality* : Ponds of Bengal.*Material* : 1 ex., 44 mm. SL., Nagarkoil—Kanyakumari Road., 24.3.88 (F. 1646) ; 2 exs., 21-25 mm. SL., Chanengodu near Kulasekharam., 29.3.88 (F. 1554) ; 3 exs., 40-67 mm. SL., Thengaramkulum, 16 Km. West of Nagarkoil., 18.8.89 (F. 2657) ; 1 ex., 58 mm. SL., Periyakulam Reservoir., 20.9.89 (F. 2882).*Distribution* : Throughout India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.**Puntius vittatus** Day

(Plate I, fig. 3)

1865. *Puntius vittatus* Day, *Proc. zool. Soc. London*, p. 303.*Type locality* : Madras.*Material* : 8 exs. 18-32 mm. SL., Thothykadu,, 15.3.89 (F. 2448) ; 8 exs., 30-41 mm.



SL., Velliyakulam pond, Manavalakurichy, 17.7.89 ; 12 exs., 31-37 mm. SL., Thengaramkulam, 16 Km. West of Nagarkoil., 18.8.89 (F. 2659) ; 2 exs., 46-48 mm. SL., Therpakulam near Verkilampi, 7.10.89 (F. 2885) ; 4 exs., 24-40 mm. SL., Pazamkulam pond at Karunyal Road in Monday Market , 9.10.89 (F. 3532).

*Distribution* : Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Kutch and Rajasthan. Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

*Remarks* : In the description of this species Day (1889) has clearly mentioned about a black blotch on the dorsal fin but in the figure of the species the marking is not clearly seen. So a better photograph of the same species is given in the paper for the benefit of future workers.

### **Tor khudree malabaricus (Jerdon)**

1848. *Barbus malabaricus* Jerdon, *Madras J. Lit. & Sci.*, 15, p. 312.

*Type locality* : Mountain streams of Malabar.

*Material* : 7 exs., 23-44 mm. SL., Kalikasam Ecological Farm., 25.3.88 (F. 2974) ;

*Distribution* : Rivers of Western Ghats, Godavary, Krishna, Cauvery and their tributaries.

### **Garra mullya (Sykes)**

1841. *Chondrostoma mullya* Sykes, *Trans. zool. Soc. London*, 2, p. 359, pl. 62, fig. 3.

*Type locality* : Poona waters.

*Material* : 5 exs., 33-44 mm. SL., Kalikasam Ecological farm., 25.3.88 (F. 2975).

*Distribution* : Throughout India except Assam and Himalaya.

### **Noemacheilus triangularis Day**

1865. *Nemacheilus triangularis* Day, *Proc. zool. Soc. London*, p. 295.

*Type locality* : Mundakayam, Travancore.

*Material* : 5 exs., 24-45 mm. SL., Kalikasam Ecological farm., 25.3.88 (F. 1540) ; 8 exs., 28-46 mm. SL., on way to Kodayar power house., 30.3.88 (F. 1652) ; 1 ex., 28 mm. SL., Lower Kodayar., 17.3.89 (F. 2480).

*Distribution* : Peninsular India, Western Ghats, Kallar, Pamba, Periyar and Bharathapuzha drainages.

### **Lepidocephalus thesmalis (Valenciennes)**

1846. *Cobitis thermalis* Valenciennes, *Hist., nat. Poiss.*, 17, p. 78.

*Type locality* : Ceylon.

*Material* : 1 exs., 29 mm. SL., Nagarkoil—Karyyakumari Road., 24.3.88 (F. 1647); 9 exs., 26-45 mm. SL., Vaalathi Vayal on Paraliyar Road., 26.3.88; 13 exs., 21-41 mm. SL., Chanengodu near Kulasekharam., 29.3.88 (F. 1551); 7 exs., 21-25 mm. SL., Osaravila., 14.3.89 (F. 2475); 2 exs., 25-31 mm. SL., Payamaram; 15.3.89 (F. 2470); 16 exs., 20-30 mm. SL., Thothykadu., 15.3.89 (F. 2455); 1 ex., 33 mm. SL., Kalikasam Ecological Farm., 25.3.88 (F. 1541); 4 exs., 35-54 mm. SL., Periyakulam Reservoir., 25.8.89 (F. 2671); 2 exs., 39-40 mm. SL., Paruthikulam pond near Eraniel., 8.10.89 (F. 2872).

*Distribution* : Southern Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, Sri Lanka.

### **Mystus armatus (Day)**

1865. *Hypselobagrus armatus* Day, *Proc. zool. Soc. London.*, p. 289.

*Type locality* : Malabar.

*Material* : 1 ex., 80 mm. SL., Chanengodu near Kulasekharam., 29.3.88 (F. 1555).

*Distribution* : Wynaad, Cauvery river in Southern India.

### **Mystus montanus (Jerdon)**

1849. *Bagrus montanus* Jerdon, *Madras J. Lit. & Sci.* 15 (2) ; p. 338.

*Type locality* : Manantody river, Wynaad.

*Material* : 2 exs., 40-48 mm. SL., Lower Kodayar; 17.3.89 (F. 2482); 1 ex., Thengaramkulam, 16 Km. West of Nagarkoil., 18.8.89 (F. 2664); 18 exs., 30-55 mm. SL., Periyakulam Reservoir., 25.8.89 (F. 2676).

*Distribution* : Manantody river, Wynaad, Cauvery headwaters in Southern India.

### **Mystus oculatus (Valenciennes)**

1839. *Bagrus oculatus* Valenciennes, *Hist. Nat. Poiss.*, 14, p. 424.

*Type locality* : Malabar.

*Material* : 1 ex., 45 mm. SL., Thengaramkulam, 16 Km. West of Nagarkoil., 18.3.89 (F. 2663); 2 exs., 43-50 mm. SL., Paruthikulam pond near Eraniel., 8.10.89 (F. 2875).

*Distribution* : Malabar, Kerala and Coimbatore.

### **Mystus vittatus (Bloch)**

1797. *Silurus vittatus* Bloch, *Ichthyl. Hist. Nat.*, 11, p. 40, pl. 371, fig. 2.

*Type locality* : Tranquebar, South India.

*Material* : 1 ex., 114 mm. SL., Paruthikulam pond near Eraniel., 8.10.89 (F. 2876).

*Distribution* : Throughout India, Pakistan, Burma, Thailand, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

**Heteropneustes fossilis (Bloch)**

1794. *Silurus fossilis* Bloch, *Naturg. Ausland. Fische.*, p. 46, pl. 370, fig. 2.

*Type locality* : Tranquebar.

*Material* : 1 ex., 155 mm. SL., Thengaramkulam, 16 Km. West of Nagarkoil., 18.8.89 (F. 2653) ; 2 exs., 135-140 mm. SL., Therpakulam near Verkilampi., 7.10.89 (F. 2883).

*Distribution* : Throughout India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Sri Lanka and Siam.

**Aplocheilus blochii (Arnold)**

1911. *Haplocheilus panchax* var. *blochii* Arnold, *Wschv.-u. Terrarienk.*, 8, p. 672.

*Type locality* : Rivers and Tanks of Madras city.

*Material* : 2 exs., 16-18 mm. SL., Payamaram., 15.3.89 (F. 2468) ; 7 exs., 20-29 mm. SL., Thengaramkulam pond, 16 Km. West of Nagarkoil., 18.8.89 (F. 2661) ; 7 exs., 17-25 mm. SL., Pazamkulam pond at Karunyal Road., 9.10.89 (F. 3533).

*Distribution* : Fresh and brackishwaters of Kutch, Ahmedabad and Madras. Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

**Aplocheilus lineatus Valenciennes)**

1846. *Panchax lineatum* Valenciennes, *Hist. nat. Poiss.*, 18, p. 381.

*Type locality* : Bombay.

*Material* : 6 exs., 17-39 mm. SL., Ponnana on Kulasekharam Road., 26.3.88 (F. 1651) ; 3 exs., 21-37 mm. SL., Chanengodu near Kulasekharam., 29.3.88 (F. 1552).

*Distribution* : Fresh and brackishwaters along the coast of Bombay, Wynaad, Malabar, Coorg, Madras and Andhra Pradesh. Sri Lanka.

**Gambusia affinis patruelis (Baird & Girard)**

1853. *Heterandia patruelis* Baird, and Girard, *Proc. Acad. nat. Sci. Philad.*, 6, p. 390.

*Type locality* : Rio Sabinal, Texas.

*Material* : 15 exs., 15-28 mm. SL., on way to Kodayar power house., 30.3.88 (F. 1653).

*Distribution* : Throughout India. Pakistan, Burma, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

**Channa orientalis** (Schneider)

1801. *Channa orientalis* Schneider, *Syst. Ichth.*, p. 496, pl. 90, fig. 2.

*Type locality* : Not given.

*Material* : 5 exs., 40-47 mm. SL., Vaalathi Vayal on Paraliyar Road, 26.3.88 (F. 1655); 6 exs., 45-55 mm. SL., Chanengodu., 29.3.88 (F. 1553); 1 ex., 76 mm. SL., payamaram., 15.3.89 (F. 2472); 4 exs., 15-70 mm. SL., Thothykadu., 15.3.89 (F. 2454); 5 exs., 60-80 mm. SL., Periyakulam Reservoir., 25.8.89 (F. 2673).

*Distribution* : Throughout India. Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Burma, Thailand, Malaysia and Viet-Nam.

**Channa punctatus** (Bloch)

1793. *Ophiocephalus punctatus* Bloch *Naturl. Ausland. Fische.*, 2, 139, pl. 358.

*Type locality* : Coromandal coast.

*Material* : 1 ex., 50 mm. SL., Pazakulam pond at Karunyal Road., 9.10.89 (F. 3534).

*Distribution* : Freshwaters of India. Pakistan, Burma, Sri Lanka, China and Malasiya.

**Ambassis commersonii** Cuvier

1828. *Ambassis commersonii* Cuvier, *Hist. nat. Poiss.*, 2, p. 176, pl. 25.

*Type locality* : Bourbon, Pondicherry., Mahe.

*Material* : 7 exs., 44-89 mm. SL., River Valliyar near Manavalakurichy Village., 20.9.89, (F. 2878).

*Distribution* : Indo-west Pacific. Often ascending rivers.

**Etroplus maculatus** (Bloch)

1785. *Chaetodon maculatus* Bloch, *Syst. Ichth.*, pl. 427, fig. 2.

*Type locality* : Not given.

*Material* : 4 exs, 17-18 mm. SL., Nagarkoil-Kanyakumari Road., 24.3.88 (F. 1649); 1 ex., 16 mm. SL., Thothykadu., 15.3.89 (F. 2452); 2 exs., 28-29 mm. SL., Payamaram., 15.3.89 (F. 2467); 2 exs., 58-64 mm. SL.. Thengaramkulam, Nagarkoil., 18.8.89 (F. 2655); 21 exs., 20-51 mm. SL., Periyakulam Reservoir., 25.8.89 (F. 2669); 2 exs., 41-45 mm. SL., Periyakulam Reservoir., 20.9.89 (F. 2884); 11 exs., 40-49 mm. SL., Puthurkayal at Mondikadu 21 Km. West of Nagarkoil., 9.10.89 (F. 2877).

*Distribution* : Tamil Nadu, Kerala and S. Kanara, Sri Lanka.

**Etroplus suratensis (Bloch)**

1763. *Chaetodon suratensis* Bloch, *Syst., Ichth.*, pl. 217.

*Type locality* : Surat.

*Material* : 1 ex., 35 mm. SL., Payamaram., 15.3.89 (F. 2466) ; 4 exs., 40-81 mm. SL., Periyakulam Peservoir., 25.8.89 (F. 2668) ; 3 exs., 55-85 mm. SL., River Valliyar near Manavalakurichy., 20.9.89 (F. 2827) ; 4 exs., 53-70 mm. SL., Puthurkayal at Mondikadu., 9.10.89 (F. 2878).

*Distribution* : Fresh and brackish waters of Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Sri Lanka.

**Oreochromis mossambica (Peters)**

1852. *Chromis mossambica* Peters, *Monatsb. Akad. Wiss. Berlin*, p. 681.

*Type locality* : Zambesi River.

*Material* : 15 exs., 12.5-26 mm. SL., Nagarkoil-Kanyakumari Road, 24.3.88 (F. 1648) ; 6 exs., 25-35 mm. SL., Thengaramkulam, 16 Km. West of Nagarkoil., 18.8.89 (F. 2662) ; 8 exs., 35-62 mm. SL., Periyakulam Reservoir., 25.8.89 (F. 2670) ; 1 ex., 78 mm. SL., Paruthikulam pond near Eraniel., 8.10.89 (F. 2874) ; 3 exs., 60-80 mm. SL., Puthurkayal at Mondikadu., 9.10.89 (F. 2879).

*Distribution* : Eastern Africa to Natal. Widely introduced in India and Pakistan.

**Liza parsia (Hamilton)**

1822. *Mugil parsia* Hamilton, *Fish Ganges*, p. 215, 380, pl. 17, fig. 71.

*Type locality* : Fresh water river of Bengal.

*Material* : 1 exs., 35 mm. SL., River Valliyar near Manavalakurichy village, 20.9.89 (F. 2880).

*Distribution* ; Coasts of Bombay, Malabar, Kerala and West Bengal. Pakistan. Bangladesh, Burma, Sri Lanka and Philippines.

**Mugil cephalus Linnaeus**

1758. *Mugil cephalus* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat.*, 1 ed., 10, p. 316.

*Type locality* : European Ocean.

*Material* : 1 ex., 54 mm. SL., River Valliyar near Manavalakurichy village., 20.9.89 (F. 2879).

*Distribution* : Throughout Southern India. Pakistan, Burma, Sri Lanka, and China.

**Awaous grammepomus (Bleeker)**

1849. *Gobius melanocephalus* Bleeker, *Verh. Bat. Gen.*, **22**, p. 23.

*Type locality* : Not given.

*Material* : 3 exs., 63-80 mm. SL., Periyakulam Reservoir., 25.8.89 (F. 2678).

*Distribution* : India. Philippines and Indo-Australian Archipelago.

**Glossogobius biocellatus (Valenciennes)**

1837. *Glossogobius biocellatus* Cuvier and Valenciennes, *Hist. nat. Poiss.*, **12**, p. 73.

*Type locality* : Not given.

*Material* : 1 ex., 61 mm. Sl., River Valliyar near Manavalakurichy Village., 20.9.89 (F. 2825).

*Distribution* : India. Philippines and Indo-Australian Archipelago.

**Glossogobius giuris (Hamilton)**

1822. *Gobius giuris* Hamilton, *Fish Ganges*, p. 51, 336, pl. 33, fig. 15.

*Type locality* : Ponds and fresh waters of Gangetic Provinces.

*Material* : 2 exs., 91-160 mm. SL., Thengaramkulam, 16 Km. West of Nagarkoil., 18.8.89 (F. 2654); 1 ex., 75 mm. SL., Paruthikulam pond near Eraniel., 8.10.89, (F. 2873).

*Distribution* : Throughout India, both fresh and estuarine waters

**Oligolepis acutipennis (Cuv. & Val.)**

1837. *Gobius acutipennis* Cuvier & Valenciennes, *Hist. nat. Poiss.*, **12**, p. 80.

*Type locality* : Malabar.

*Material* : 2 exs., 57-68 mm. SL., River Valliyar near Manavalakurichy Village., 20.9.89, (F. 2826).

*Distribution* : From India to Indo-Australian Archipelago and Philippines.

**Stigmatogobius javanicus (Bleeker)**

1856. *Gobius javanicus* Bleeker, *Nat. Tijds, Ned. Ind.* **11**, p. 88.

*Type locality* : Not given.

*Material* : 7 exs., 44-89 mm. SL., River Valliyar near Manavalakurichy. 20.9.89, (F. 2830 (A)).

*Distribution* : India. Philippines, Indo-Australian Archipelago and Queensland.

**Macropodus cupanus Valenciennes**

1831. *Macropodus cupanus* Valenciennes, *Hist. nat. Poiss.*, 7, p. 357.

*Type locality* : Pondicherry.

*Material* : 2 exs., 30-32 mm. SL., Payamaram., 15.3.89 (F. 2473); 12 exs., 14-27 mm. SL., Thothykadu., 15.3.89 (F. 2453); 8 exs., 31-45 mm. SL., Pazamkulam pond at Karunyal Road in Monday Market, Neyyor., 9.10.89 (F. 3529).

*Distribution* : Ditches, paddy fields and shallow waters along the coasts of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

**Mastocembelus guntheri Day**

1865. *Mastacembelus guentheri* Day, *Proc. zool. Soc. London*, p. 37.

*Type locality* : Malabar.

*Material* : 1 ex., 44 mm. SL., Mylarodai, Kodayar, 28.3.88; 1 ex., 72 mm. SL., Lower Kodayar., 17.3.89 (F. 2458); 2 exs., 52-65 mm. SL., Pazamkulam pond at Karunyal Road at Monday Market, Neyyor., 9.10.89 (F. 3535).

*Distribution* : Malabar coast and Kanyakumari District.

## DISCUSSION

Forty two species including 33 primary freshwater fishes are reported for the first time from Kanyakumari District. Earlier report on fishes of Kanyakumari district is found in a small hand book by Singh (1976) wherein 19 primary freshwater species are reported and of these 11 species are not represented in the present collection. Several North Indian species have been inadvertently included in the list viz. *Haplocheilus panchax* (= *Aplocheilus panchax* (Ham.)), *Discognathus lamta* (= *Garra lamta* (Ham.)), *Barbus chrysopoma* (= *Puntius sarana spilurus* (Gunther)), *Barbus puntio* (= *puntius puntio* (Ham.)) and *Chela sardinella* (= *Salmostoma sardinella* (Val.)). Also for certain other species nomenclatural changes have to be incorporated for ex. *Aplocheilus melastigma* (= *Oryzias melanostigma* (Mc. Cl.)), *Barbus tor* (= *Tor khudree malabaricus* (Jerdon)), *Rasbora argentea* (= *Chela acinaces* (Val.)) and *Chela clupeoides* (= *Salmostoma clupeoides* (Bleeker)) (Jayaram, 1981). This report is an upto-date one on the Ichthyofauna of the district.

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