

A NOTE ON THE FRESHWATER FISHES OF THE RIVER PORALI BALOCHISTAN

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ABSTRACT: - 22 species of freshwater fishes belonging to 19 genera, 11 families and 8 orders of teleostean fishes are recorded from the river Porali (Balochistan).

KEY WORDS : Fresh water fishes, Balochistan, River Porali, Pakistan.

INTRODUCTION

The fish fauna of the river Porali was studied by Zugmayer (1913). He recorded 18 species belonging to 16 genera and 8 families. Some species were added by Nazneen *et al.* (1989). Some Specimens of fishes were collected by the 2nd and 3rd authors from Lasbella. Among these, there, is a specimen of *Acanthopagrus latus* recorded for the first time from Lasbela. All these species were recorded near Bela City.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

ORDER :CLUPEIFORMES

FAMILY : CLUPEIDAE

1. *Gudusia chapra* (Hamilton)
2. *Tenualosa His ha* (Hamilton)

ORDER: OSTEOGLOSSIFORMES

FAMILY :NOTOPTERIDAE

3. *Chitala chitala* (Hamilton)

ORDER: CYPRINIFORMES

FAMILY : CYPRINIDAE

4. *Aspidoparia morar* (Hamilton)
5. *Cyprinion watsoni* (Day)
6. *Danio devario* (Hamilton)
7. *Labeo dew* (Hamilton)
8. *Puntius conchonus* (Hamilton)
9. *P. punjabensis* (Day)
10. *P. sophore* (Hamilton)
11. *Salmophasia bacaila* (Hamilton)
12. *Tor macrolepis* (Heckel)

ORDER: SILURIFORMES
FAMILY: BACRIDAE

13. *Mystus gulio* (Hamilton)

ORDER : CYPRINODONTIFORMES
FAMILY : CYPRINODONTIDAE

14. *Aphanius dispar* (Ruppell)

FAMILY : POECILIIDAE

15. *Poecilia reticulata* (Peters)

ORDER: CHANNIFORMES
FAMILY: CHANNIDAE

16. *Channa gachua* (Hamilton)

ORDER: MUGILIFORMES
FAMILY: MUGILIDAE

17. *Mugil cephalus* (Linnaeus)

ORDER: MASTACEMBELIFORMES
FAMILY: MASTACEMBELIDAE

18. *Mastacembelus armatus* (Lacepede)

ORDER: PERCIFORMES
FAMILY : GOBIIDAE

19. *Boleophthalmus boddarti* (Hamilton)

20. *B. dussumieri* (Valenciennes)

21. *Glossogobius giuris* (Hamilton)

FAMILY : SPARIDAE

22. *Acanthopagrus latus* (Hottuyn)

The fish fauna of river Porali contains several species which are not normally found in the freshwaters, such as : *Mugil cephalus*, *Boleophthalmus boddarti*, *Boleophthalmus dussumieri* and *Acanthopagrus latus*. Such species were already recorded by Zugmayer (1913) about 190 km. upstream from sea in this river quite above the influence of tidal waves.

This list is only a preliminary list and there are many gaps. One of the species is *Crossocheilus diplocheilus* (Heckel), which is widely distributed in Balochistan and extends along the coast in the coastal rivers (Hingol and Dasht) into the east part of Iranian Balochistan and Sistan. It is certainly due to incomplete collection.

Another important gap is the family Nemacheilidae. So it is clear that a thorough survey of this river will yield many more species. There are at least eight species of commercial importance. Among these the mahseer *Tor macrolepis* is most important food and game fish.

Even *Cyprinion watsoni* population of the river Porali was assigned to a distinct subspecies by Zugmayer. It grows to more than 9 inches in length and hence can be consumed as food. Other species include the "Palla", the "Grey Mullet" and the Bhanggan" etc which are consumed by man.

Other species of commercial importance are the "Samundari Khagga" (*Mystus gulio*) "Cheetal Pari" (*Chitala chitala*) and "Mar Mahi" (*Mastacembelus armatus*) which grow to a large size and are suitable for human consumption. Various species of *Puntius*, *Aphanius dispar* and *Poecilia reticulata* are ornamental fishes.

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