

## Ichthyospecies Diversity of Karbhala Wetland in Cachar District of Assam

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### Abstract

A total of 26 species of fishes belonging to four different orders and 16 families were found in Karbhala wetland. Of these, *Amblypharyngodon mola* was found to be the most abundant (65%) while *Schistura* sp. was least abundant (35%). Conservation of less abundant species were discussed in the paper.

**Key words :** Fish diversity, Karbhala wetland, Silchar.

Assam is endowed with huge fishery potential. A considerable proportion of rural people in Assam, belonging to landless and economically backward section are meeting their own requirement of fish by own catch. Karbhala wetland (area 0.2345 ha at FSL), lying between 24°41' N and 92°42' E and situated 5 km from the Assam University, Silchar, is a potential fish habitat for earning livelihood by the riparian fishermen. The wetland has a maximum depth of 2 m at FSL. Fish being one of the main items of food for most of the people in Assam, the demand for fish is high in the province. Fishing is the main source of employment and income for the people residing in the surrounding villages. Jayaram (1–3) studied the freshwater fishes of the Indian region. Kar (4, 5) studied the biodiversity conservation prioritisation project (BCPP) in India. Kar and Dey (6) studied the Scooping Gears of lake Sone in Assam. Kar (7, 8) illustrated the present status of fish biodiversity in Barak valley region and Tripura. Kar (9) studied the fishes of Barak drainage, Mizoram and Tripura. Kar (10) published fundamentals of limnology and aquaculture biotechnology. Kar et al. (11–13) studied on the fish-biodiversity in north-eastern India. Kar (14) studied the Fish Diversity in the Major Rivers in Southern Assam, Mizoram and Tripura. Kar (15) studied fish diversity and conservation aspects in an aquatic ecosystem in northeastern India. Kar and Sen (16) studied the systematic list and distribution of fish biodiversity in Mizoram, Tripura and Barak drainage in north-east India. Kar et al. (17) studied the dynamics of initiation of disease in fishes through interaction of microbes and the environment. Kar et al. (18) stud-

ied the panorama of fish biodiversity in certain rivers and wetlands and protected areas in Assam. Kar and Dey (19) studied the ichthyospecies of Lake Sone in Barak valley of Assam. Kar and Barbhuiya (20) studied the Ichthyodiversity of Chatla Haor a floodplain wetland in Barak valley Region of Assam.

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**Table 1.** List of fish species recorded in Karbhala wetland.

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|-----|---|
| 1.  | <i>Amblypharyngodon mola</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)      |
| 2.  | <i>Esomus danricus</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)            |
| 3.  | <i>Puntius choki</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)              |
| 4.  | <i>Puntius sophore</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)            |
| 5.  | <i>Puntius ticto</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)              |
| 6.  | <i>Mystus bleekeri</i> (Day)                          |
| 7.  | <i>Mystus tengara</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)             |
| 8.  | <i>Parambassis ranga</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)          |
| 9.  | <i>Parambassis baculis</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)        |
| 10. | <i>Badis badis</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)                |
| 11. | <i>Heteropneustes fossilis</i> (Bloch)                |
| 12. | <i>Glossogobius giuris giuris</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan) |
| 13. | <i>Oreochromis mosambica</i> (Peters)                 |
| 14. | <i>Anabas testudineus</i> (Bloch)                     |
| 15. | <i>Colisa fasciatus</i> (Schneider)                   |
| 16. | <i>Colisa lalia</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)               |
| 17. | <i>Channa punctatus</i> (Bloch)                       |
| 18. | <i>Channa striatus</i> (Bloch)                        |
| 19. | <i>Lepidocephalichthys guntea</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan) |
| 20. | <i>Schistura</i> sp.                                  |
| 21. | <i>Macrornathus aral</i> (Bloch & Schneider)          |
| 22. | <i>Macrornathus pancalus</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)      |
| 23. | <i>Monopterus albus</i> (Zuiew)                       |
| 24. | <i>Mystus cavasius</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)            |
| 25. | <i>Clarias batrachus</i> (Linnaeus)                   |
| 26. | <i>Botia dario</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)                |

**Table 2.** List of orders and families of fish species.

Order	Family
1. Perciformes	Channidae
	Belontiidae
	Anabantidae
	Gobiitidae
	Cichlidae
	Nandidae
2. Synbranchiformes	Chandidae
	Mastacembelidae
	Synbranchidae
3. Siluriformes	Heteropneustidae
	Clariidae
	Bagridae
	Clariidae
4. Cypriniformes	Cobitidae
	Balitoridae
	Cyprinidae

### Methods

Fishes were collected experimental fishing using gill nets, cast nets, hooks and lines. They were brought to the laboratory in a plastic container. In the laboratory, the fishes were identified with the help of standard taxonomic literature (1—3, 16, 21).

### Results and Discussion

Fish being one of the main items of food for most of the people in Assam, the demand for fish is very high in the province. About 90% of the people in the province are fish eaters. Karbhala wetland has a rich diversity of 26 fish species belonging to 18 genera, 15 families and 4 orders.

Table 1 shows the list of fish species available in Karbhala wetland and Table 2 shows the list of orders and families to which the fish species belong.

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