

**REPORT ON THE ICHTHYOFAUNA FROM THE MOPPING SURVEYS
OF KAMARAJAR AND PASUMPON RAMALINGAM
DISTRICTS (TAMIL NADU)**

T.J. INDRA

*Zoological Survey of India
Southern Regional Station
Madras-600 028.*

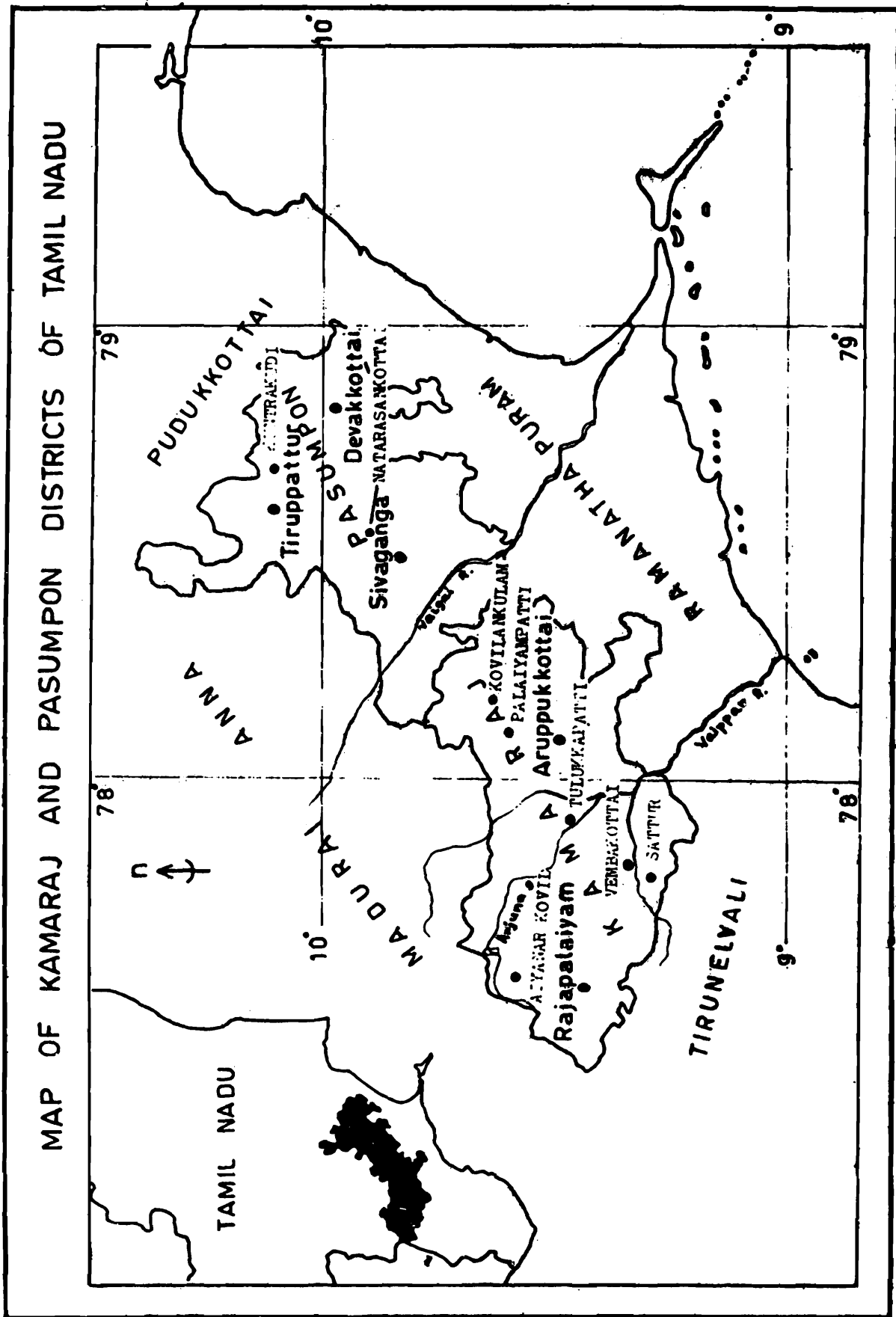
INTRODUCTION

During the years 1987-1988, Zoological Survey of India, Southern Regional Station, carried out two extensive surveys of Kamarajar and Pasumpon Districts in Tamil Nadu, under the Mopping Survey Scheme. These two districts are considered to be drought prone areas in the State as there is very poor natural water resources. River Arjuna, a small tributary of River Vaippar flows through Kamarajar District and River Vaigai flows through Pasumpon district. These are seasonal rivers and for the most part of the year they are dry. Zoological Survey of India tour parties collected material from these two districts. Collections were made from water falls and takes on the Western Ghat border (eastern facing), dams and reservoirs built across these rivers.

The fish fauna of these two districts specially the eastern side of the Western Ghats is scarcely known and therefore a list of fishes of these areas is of interest. The collection comprising a total of 624 specimens assignable to 20 species under 6 families.

LIST OF SPECIES

Super Order	OSTARIOPHYSI	
Order	CYPRINIFORMES	
Family	CYPRINIDAE	
Subfamily	CULTRINAE	
1. <i>Salmostoma clupeoides</i> (Bloch)		12 exs.
Subfamily	RASBORINAE	
2. <i>Amblypharyngodon microlepis</i> (Blk.)		30 exs.
3. <i>Esomus barbatus</i> (Jerdon)		12 exs.
4. <i>rasbora</i> (<i>Rasbora</i>) <i>caverii</i> (Jerdon)		2 exs.
5. <i>Rasbora</i> (<i>Rasbora</i>) <i>daniconius</i> (Ham.)		13 exs.



Subfamily

CYPRININAE

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|---------|
| 6. | <i>Catla catla</i> (Ham.).. | 1 ex. |
| 7. | <i>Cirrhinus mrigala</i> (Ham.) | 63 exs. |
| 8. | <i>Cyprinus carpio communis</i> L | 5 exs. |

9.	<i>Labeo rohita</i> (Ham.)		1 ex.
10.	<i>Puntius amphibius</i> (Val.)		2 exs.
11.	<i>Puntius chola</i> (Ham.)		5 exs.
12.	<i>Puntius dorsalis</i> (Jerdon)		61 exs.
13.	<i>Puntius sarana subnasutus</i> (Val.)		2 exs.
		Subfamily	GARRINAE
14.	<i>Garra mullya</i> (Sykes)		80 exs.
		Family	COBITIDAE
15.	<i>Lepidocephalus thermalis</i> (Val.)		99 exs.
		Order	SILURIFORMES
		Family	BAGRIDAE
16.	<i>Mystus vittatus</i> (Bloch)		4 exs.
		Order	CHANNIFORMES
		Family	CHANNIDAE
17.	<i>Channa orientalis</i> (Schneider)		5 exs.
18.	<i>Channa punctatus</i> (Bloch)		3 exs.
		Order	ATHERINIFORMES
		Family	POECILIDAE
19.	<i>Gambusia affinis patruelis</i> (Baird & Girard)		5 exs.
		Order	PERCIFORMES
		Family	CICHLIDAE
20.	<i>Sarotherodon mossambica</i> (Peters)		219 exs.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

***Salmostoma clupeoides* (Bloch)**

1795. *Cyprinus clupeoides* Bloch, *Naturg. Ausland. Fische*, 12, p. 49, pl. 408, Fig. 2. (Type locality : Tranquebar).

Material : 8 exs., 52-96 mm. SL., Kullur santhai reservoir., 11.8.87 ; 1 ex., 60.0 mm. S.L., Kullur Santhai reservoir. 12.8.87 ; 1 ex., 78.0 mm. SL., Vembakkotai reservoir., 12.8.87 ; 3 exs., 49-77 mm. SL., Sivaganga town., 22.8.87.

Distribution : India : Narmada, Tapi, Krishna, Godavari and Cauvery river systems.

***Amblypharyngodon microlepis* (Bleeker)**

1853. *Leuciscus microlepis* Bleeker, *Verh. batav. Genoot. Kunst. wet.*, 25, p. 41. (Type locality : River Hooghly).

Material : 14 exs., 36-80 mm. SL., Kullur Santhai reservoir., 11.8.87 ; 16 exs., 42-

77 mm. SL., Vembakkottai reservoir., 12.8.87.

Distribution : India : Hooghly, Eastern and Southern India, Bangladesh.

Esomus barbatus (Jerdon)

1849. *Leuciscus barbatus*, Jerdon, *Madras J. Lit. & Sci.*, 15, p. 322. (Type locality : Rivers and tanks all over Mysore and Carnatic).

Material : 1 ex., 36.0 mm. SL., Tulukapatti., 10.8.87 ; 7 exs., 53-64 mm. SL., Kullur Santhai reservoir., 11.8.87 ; 3 exs., 57-72 mm. SL., Vembakkottai reservoir., 12.8.87 ; 1 ex., 46.0 mm. SL., Sivaganga Town., 22.8.87.

Distribution : India : Confined to South India. Recorded so far from Nellore dist., Andhra Pradesh. Chingleput and Mysore.

Rasbora (Rasbora) caverii (Jerdon)

1848. *Leuciscus caverii* Jerdon, *Madras J. Lit. & Sci.*, 15, p. 320. (Type locality : Cauvery river, Coorg state).

Material : 1 ex., 21.0 mm. SL., Palayampatti., 31.1.88 ; 1 ex., 52.0 mm. SL., Pilavakal Dam., 6.2.88.

Distribution : India : Southern India, notably Karnataka, especially the Cauvery Basin. Sri Lanka.

Rasbora (Rasbora) daniconius (Hamilton)

1822. *Cyprinus daniconius* Hamilton, *Fish Ganges*, p. 327. pl. 15, Fig. 89. (Type locality : Rivers of Southern Bengal).

Material : 5 exs., 22-34 mm. SL., Aruppukkotai., 8.8.87 ; 1 ex., 52.0 mm. SL., Kullur Santhai Reservoir., 12.8.87 ; 1 ex., 40.0 mm. SL., Pilavukal Dam., 14.8.87 ; 1 ex., 86.0 mm. SL., Sivaganga town., 22.8.87 ; 5 exs., 62-75 mm. SL., Shasta Kovil., 5.2.88.

Distribution : India : Throughout India ; Pakistan ; Nepal ; Bangladesh ; Sri Lanka ; Burma ; Malay Archipelago ; Zanzibar.

Catla catla (Hamilton)

1822. *Cyprinus catla* Hamilton, *Fish Ganges*, p. 287, 387, pl. 13, Fig. 81. (Type locality : The rivers and tanks of Bengal).

Material : 1 ex., 225.0 mm. SL., Pilavukal Dam., 14.8.87.

Distribution : India : Throughout India, upto Krishna River but introduced into the Cauvery river system. Pakistan. Nepal ; Bangladesh ; Thailand.

Cirrhinus mrigala (Hamilton)

1822. *Cyprinus mrigala* Hamilton, *Fish Ganges*, p. 279, 386, pl. 6, Fig. 78 (Type locality : Ponds and freshwater river of the Gangetic province).

Material : 63 exs., 19-270 mm. SL., Pilavukal Dam., 14.8.87.

Distribution : India : Throughout India ; Pakistan ; Bangladesh ; Burma.

Cyprinus carpio communis Linnaeus

1758. *Cyprinus carpio* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat. Ed.*, 10, I, p. 525. (Type locality : Europe).

Material : 1 ex., 142.0 mm. SL., Vembakkotai Reservoir., 12.8.87 ; 4 exs., 20-155 mm. SL., Pilavukal Dam., 14.8.87.

Distribution : Naturally found all over China ; Korea ; Taiwan ; Europe ; America. Introduced into our waters.

Labeo rohita (Hamilton)

1822. *Cyprinus rohita* Hamilton, *Fish Ganges*, p. 301, Fig. 85. (Type locality : Freshwater rivers of the Gangetic province).

Material : 1 ex., 225.0 mm. SL., Pilavukal Dam., 14.8.87.

Distribution : India : Throughout northern India ; Pakistan ; Bangladesh ; Burma. Introduced into South Indian rivers and reservoirs.

Puntius amphibius (Valenciennes)

1842. *Capoeta amphibia* Valenciennes, *Hist. Nat. Poise.*, 16, p. 282, 478. (Type locality : Bombay).

Material : 1 ex., 39.0 mm. SL., Kular Santhai Reservoir., 11.8.87 ; 1 ex., 39.0 mm. SL., Kular Santhai Reservoir., 12.8.87.

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

Puntius chola (Hamilton)

1822. *Cyprinus chola* Hamilton, *Fish Ganges*, (Type locality : northeastern parts of Bengal).

Material : 2 exs., 58-64 mm. Kullur Santhai Reservoir., 11.8.87 ; 1 ex., 55.0 mm. SL., Kullur Santhai Reservoir., 12.8.87 ; 2 exs., 61-64 mm. SL., Pilavakal., 6.2.88.

Distribution : India : Throughout India ; Pakistan ; Bangladesh ; Burma ; 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 : 15 exs., 44-94 mm. SL., Kullur Santhai Reservoir., 11.8.87 ; 2 exs., 57-79 mm. SL., Kullur Santhai Reservoir., 12.8.87 ; 12 exs., 58-123 mm. SL., Vembakkottai Reservoir., 12.8.87 ; 26 exs. 19-43 mm. SL., Iyanar Kovil., 16.8.87 ; 6 exs., 38-47 mm. SL., Shasta Kovil., 5.2.88.

Distribution : India : Krishna, Cauvery, Coleroon, river systems in South India.

Puntius sarana subnasutus (Valenciennes)

1865. *Cyclochelichthya pinnauratus* Day, *Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* (Type locality : Wynaad).

Material : 2 exs., 70-74 mm. SL., Palavakal., 6.2.88.

Distribution : India : Throughout India ; Pakistan ; Sri Lanka ; Bangladesh ; Burma ; Thailand ; China.

Garra mullya (Sykes)

1841. *Chondrostoma mullya* Sykes, *Trans. zool. Soc. Lond.*, 2, p. 359, pl. 62, Fig. 3. (Type locality : Poona waters).

Material : 72 exs., 21-65 mm. SL., Shasta Kovil., 5.2.88 ; 8 exs., 18-36 mm. SL., Iyanar Kovil., 16.8.87.

Distribution : India : Throughout India, except Assam and Himalaya.

Lepidocephalus thermalis (Valenciennes)

1846. *Cobitis thermalis* Valenciennes, *Hist. nat. Poiss.*, 17, p. 78. (Type locality : Ceylon).

Material : 3 exs., 42-48 mm. SL., Arupukottai., 8.8.87 ; 19 exs. 13-24 mm. SL., Tulukapatti., 10.8.87 ; 7 exs., 39-45 mm. SL., Kullur Santhai Reservoir 11.8.87 ; 1 ex., 36.0 mm. SL., Pilavukal Dam., 14.8.87 ; 26 exs., 21-52 mm. SL., Sivaganga town., 22.8.87 ; 1 ex., 26.0 mm SL., Dalayampatti., 31.1.88 ; 15 exs., 31.41 mm. SL., Shasta Kovil., 5.2.88 ; 1 ex., 20.0 mm. SL., Rajapalayam., 7.2.88 ; 8 exs., 20-30 mm. SL., Kovingkulam., 8.2.88 ; 6 exs. 10-30 mm. SL., Kattur., 8.2.88 ; 12 exs., 22-48 mm. SL., Devakottai., 12.2.88.

Distribution : India : Throughout India.

Mystus vittatus (Bloch)

1797. *Silurus vittatus* Bloch, *Ichthyol Hist. Nat.*, 11, p. 40, pl. 371, Fig. 2. (Type locality : Tranquebar, S. India).

Material : 3 exs., 78-86 mm. SL., Vembakkottai Reservoir., 12.8.87 ; 1 ex., 83.0 mm. SL., Arjuna River, Tulukampatti., 1.2.88.

Distribution : India : Throughout India ; Pakistan ; Burma ; Thailand ; Bangladesh Sri Lanka.

Channa orientalis (Schneider)

1801. *Channa orientalis* Schneider, *Syst. Ichth. Bloch.*, p. 496, pl. 90, Fig. 2. (Type locality : not known).

Material : 3 exs., 22-30 mm. SL., Iyanar Kovil., 16.8.87 ; 1 ex., 125.0 mm. SL., Arjuna River., 1.2.88 ; 1 ex., 138.0 mm. SL., Shastar Kovil ; 5.2.88.

Distribution : India : Throughout India ; Pakistan ; Afganistan ; Bangladesh ; Sri Lanka ; Burma ; Thailand ; Malaya Archipelago ; Yunan ; Viet-nam ; Laos.

Channa punctatus (Bloch)

1793. *Opihiöcephalus punctatus* Bloch, *Naturg. Ausland. Fisch.*, 2, p. 139, pl. 358. (Type locality : Coromandal coast).

Material : 3 exs., 49-64 mm. SL., Sivaganga Town., 22.8.87.

Distribution : India : Throughout India ; Pakistan ; Nepal ; Bangladesh ; Burma ; Sri Lanka.

Gambusia affinis patruelis (Baird & Girard)

1853. *Heteransia patruelis* Baird and Girard, *Proc. Acad. nat. Sci. Philad.* 6, p. 390 (Type-locality : Rio Sabinal, Texas).

Material : 5 exs., 22-28 mm. SL., Arupukottai., 8.8.87.

Distribution : India : Throughout India ; Pakistan ; Bangladesh ; Sri Lanka ; Burma.

Sarotheroon mossambica (Peters)

1852. *Chromis mossambicus* Peters, *Monatsb. Akad. Wirs. Berlin*, p. 681. (Type locality : Zambesi river).

Material : 102 exs., 6-49 mm. SL., Aruppu Kottai., 8.8.87 ; 4 exs., 82-118 mm. SL., Kullur Santhai Reservoir., 11.8.87 ; 3 exs., 92-97 mm. SL., Vembakottai Reservoir., 12.8.87 ; 2 exs., 108-109 SL., Pilavukal., Dam., 14.8.87 ; 38 exs., 21-118 mm. SL., Sivaganga Town., 22.8.87 ; 7 exs., 4-20 mm. SL., Natavasankottai ; 22.8.87 ; 45 exs., 15-53 mm. SL., Kuntrakudi., 24.8.87 ; 7 exs., 35-50 mm. SL., Pilavukal., 6.2.88 ; 1 ex., 92.0 mm. SL., Rajapalayam., 7.2.88 ; 6 exs., 10-30 mm. SL., Kattur., 8.2.88 ; 4 exs., 18-22 mm. SL., Devakkottai., 12.2.88.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thanks are due to Dr. R.S. Pillai, Scientist 'SE', Officer-in-Charge, Southern Regional Station, Madras, for providing facilities and encouragement. I am thankful to Dr K.V Lakshminarayana, Scientist 'SE' and Sri T Venkateswarlu, Scientist 'SD' for providing me the fish material for the study.

SUMMARY

The paper deals with 20 species belonging to 6 families, which were collected from Kamarajar and Pasumpon Ramalingam Districts, Tamil Nadu.