

REPORT ON THE ICHTHYOFAUNA OF NORTH ARCOT DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU

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INTRODUCTION

North Arcot District lies in the northeast of Tamil Nadu between latitudes 12° N and 13°2'N and longitudes 78° 24'E and 79° 45'E. The erstwhile North Arcot District has been recently bifurcated into Thiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar and North Arcot Ambedkar Districts with headquarters at Thiruvannamalai and Vellore respectively. A total of 27 localities were surveyed for faunistic studies (Map.1). Collection localities of significance include the Javadi (1166 M) and Yelagiri Hills (1000 M) and the Sathanur Dam. Collections could not be made in Palar, the main river which traverses North Arcot District, as it is dry for most part of the year and is flooded only during the monsoon. Besides, 250 of the 580 tanneries in Tamil Nadu are situated on the banks of this river in this district alone and empty their effluents along a major stretch of the river, polluting whatever water that flows through it (Mary Bai, 1990).

This paper deals with the Ichthyofaunal collections made during December, 1992 and March, 1994 under the leadership of Dr. K. Ramachandra Rao and the second author. A total of 1840 specimens belonging to 30 species were collected. A systematic account of the species is given which includes the first reference, material examined, habitat, size and distribution. The specimens have been registered and incorporated in the S.R.S. collections.

LIST OF SPECIES

Order OSTEOGLOSSIFORMES

Family NOTOPTERIDAE

1. *Notopterus notopterus* (Pallas)

Order CYPRINIFORMES

Family CYPRINIDAE

Subfamily RASBORINAE

2. *Amblypharyngodon microlepis* (Bleeker)
3. *Danio aequipinnatus* (McClelland)
4. *Esomus thermoicos* (Valenciennes)

5. *Rasbora caverii* (Jerdon)
6. *Rasbora daniconius* (Hamilton)

Subfamily CYPRININAE

7. *Barbodes sarana subnasutus* (Valenciennes)
8. *Catla catla* (Hamilton)
9. *Cirrhinus mrigala* (Hamilton)
10. *Labeo calbasu* (Hamilton)
11. *Labeo rohita* (Hamilton)
12. *Puntius amphibius* (Valenciennes)
13. *Puntius bimaculatus* (Bleeker)
14. *Puntius sophore* (Hamilton)
15. *Puntius ticto* (Hamilton)
16. *Puntius vittatus* Day

Subfamily : GARRINAE

17. *Garra mullya* (Sykes)

Subfamily : LEUCISCINAE

18. *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix* (Valenciennes)

Family COBITIDAE

19. *Lepidocephalus thermalis* (Valenciennes)

Order SILURIFORMES

Family BAGRIDAE

20. *Aorichthys seenghala* (Sykes)

Family HETEROPNEUSTIDAE

21. *Heteropneustes fossilis* (Bloch)

Order CYPRINODONTIFORMES

Family ORYZIATIDAE

22. *Oryzias melastigma* (Mc Clelland)

Family POECILIDAE

23. *Gambusia affinis* (Baird and Girard)
24. *Poecilia (Lebistes) reticulata* Peters

Order PERCIFORMES

Suborder PERCOIDEI

Family CICHLIDAE

25. *Oreochromis mossambica* (Peters)
26. *Oreochromis niloticus* (Hasselquist)

Suborder : GOBIOIDEI

Family GOBIIDAE

27. *Glossogobius giuris* (Hamilton)

Suborder CHANNOIDEI

Family CHANNIDAE

28. *Channa gachua* Hamilton
29. *Channa punctatus* (Bloch)
30. *Channa striatus* (Bloch)

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Order OSTEOGLOSSIFORMES

Family NOTOPTERIDAE

1 *Notopterus notopterus* (Pallas)

1769. *Gymnotus notopterus* Pallas, *Spicil. Zool.*, 7 : 40, Pl.6, fig.2

(Type locality ? Indian Ocean)

Material 2 exs., 195.0 and 225.0 mm SL, Sathanur dam, 12.3.94, F. 4142.

Habitat and size Rivers, swamps, canals and estuaries. Grows to 61 cm TL, usually much smaller, upto 25 cm.

Distribution Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand, Malaya and Indonesia.

Order CYPRINIFORMES

Family CYPRINIDAE

Subfamily RASBORINAE

2. *Amblypharyngodon microlepis* (Bleeker)

1853. *Leuciscus microlepis* Bleeker, *Verh. batav. Genoot. Kunst. wet.*, 25 : 141.

(Type locality River Hooghly).

Material 13 exs., 15.0-23.0 mm SL, Tamaraikulam, 14.3.94; 1 ex., 19.0 mm SL, Seduvalai, 19.3.94; 1 ex., 18.0 mm SL, Gudiyatham, 21.3.94; 14 exs., 26.0-37.0 mm SL, Arcot, 23.3.94, F 4130.

Habitat and Size Ponds, ditches, nullahs and slow moving streams, grows to 10 cm TL.

Distribution Bengal through Chota-Nagpur to Peninsular India, except the west face of Western Ghats.

3. *Danio aequipinnatus* (McClelland)

1839. *Perilampus aequipinnatus* McClelland, *Asiat. Res.* 19 (2) : 393, pl.60, fig.1.

(Type locality Assam)

Material 1 ex., 38.0 mm SL, Sathanur dam, 12.3.94, F. 4149.

Habitat and size Clear streams and rivulets at foot hills. Grows to 15 cm.

Remarks: D.3/10; A.3/14; L.1.38; predorsal scales 15; 2 pairs of small barbels; body depth 3 in SL, 4 in TL; head 3.5 in SL, 4.5 in TL; eye 3.3, snout 4.5 and interorbital width 2.5 in head.

Distribution Throughout India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Burma and Thailand.

4. *Esomus thermoicos* (Valenciennes)

1842. *Nuria thermoicos* Valenciennes, *Hist. nat. Poiss.*, 16 : 238, pl. 472.

(Type locality :Hot springs at Kanniya, Sri Lanka)

Material: 9 exs., 12.0-19.0 mm SL. Kavalur, Javadi Hills, 10.12.92; 65 exs., 22.0-51.0 mm

SL, Arcot, 22.3.94, F. 4128.

Habitat and size More common in muddy ditches, ponds and canals than in flowing waters. Grows to 12 cm TL.

Distribution Sri Lanka. Peninsular India.

5. *Rasbora caverii* (Jerdon)

1849. *Leuciscus caverii* Jerdon, *Madras J. Lit. Sci.*, 15 : 320

(Type locality Cauvery river, Southern India)

Material: 6 exs. 17.0-29.0 mm SL, in a pond southeast of Javadi Hills, 7.12.92, F. 3978; 10 exs., 40.0 - 58.0 mm SL, Elagiri hills, 15.3.94, F. 4146.

Remarks Juveniles difficult to tell apart from those of *R. daniconius*.

Habitat and size: Mountain streams to lowland forest streams and ponds. Grows to 14 cm TL.

Distribution Peninsular India. Sri Lanka.

6. *Rasbora daniconius* (Hamilton)

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

(Type locality Rivers of Southern Bengal)

Material: 1 ex., 32.0 mm SL, Nilavur, 7 km. Southeast of Elagiri Hills, 8.12.92, F. 3958; 10 exs., 19.0-26.0 mm SL, a pond 2 km. Southeast of Elagiri hills Hotel, 8.12.92; 1 ex., 14.0 mm SL, Kavalur, Javadi hills, 10.12.92; 4 exs., 13.0-26.0 mm SL, Gudiyatham 21.3.94 and 71 exs., 21.0-35.0 mm SL, Arcot, 23.3.94, F.4129.

Remarks The juveniles are difficult to differentiate from those of *R. caverii* (Jerdon); predorsal 15, and the dorso-hypural distance when carried forward just falls on the posterior border of eye.

Habitat and size Clear and slow moving streams, pools and ditches in the plains chiefly with sandy substrate. Grows to 14 cm. TL.

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

7. *Barbodes sarana subnasutus* (Valenciennes)

1842. *Barbus subnasutus* Valenciennes, *Hist. nat. Poiss.* 16 : 154.

(Type locality Pondicherry).

Material 1 ex., 21.0 mm SL, Sathanur dam, 12.3.94, F. 4125.

Habitat and size: Rivers with medium current, tanks, ponds and reservoirs. Grows to 25.0 cm TL

Distribution India Peninsular Krishna River and South.

8. *Catla catla* (Hamilton)

1822. *Cyprinus catla* Hamilton, *Fish. Ganges* : 287, 318, Pl. 13, fig. 81

(Type locality Rivers and tanks of Bengal)

Material 1 ex., 180.0 mm SL, Vellore Fortmoat, 22.3.94, F. 4135.

Habitat and size Rivers, lakes and culture ponds. Grows to 120 cm. TL.

Distribution: Pakistan: Indus plains and adjoining hills; India: Northern India; Bangladesh; Nepal; Burma; introduced into the rivers of Peninsular India and Sri Lanka.

9. *Cirrhinus mrigala* (Hamilton)

1882. *Cyprinus mrigala* Hamilton, *Fish. Ganges* : 279, 386, pl. 6, fig. 79.

(Type locality Ponds and Freshwater rivers of Gangetic Provinces).

Material 1 ex., 220.0 mm SL, Vellore Fort moat, 22.3.94, F. 4137

Remarks D.2/12; L.I. 43; pores on snout, one pair of barbels.

Habitat and size Large rivers and ponds. Grows to 99 cm TL.

Distribution Pakistan Indus basin and adjacent hill areas. India Northern India from Punjab to West Bengal and Assam. Nepal and Bangladesh; Introduced into Peninsular India.

10. *Labeo calbasu* (Hamilton)

1822. *Cyprinus calbasu* Hamilton, *Fish. Ganges* : 297, 389, pl.2, fig. 33.

(Type locality Bengal)

Material 1 ex., 220.0 mm SL, Sathanur dam, 12.3.94, F. 4126.

Remarks D.3/14; L. tr. $7\frac{1}{2} / 6\frac{1}{2}$, L. 1 37, snout tuberculated; 2 pairs of well developed barbels and lips conspicuously fringed.

Habitat and size Rivers and ponds. Grows to 90.0 cm TL.

Distribution Throughout India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand. Also South east China.

11 *Labeo rohita* (Hamilton)

1822. *Cyprinus rohita* Hamilton, *Fish. Ganges* : 301, Pl. 36, fig. 85.

(Type locality Gangetic Provinces).

Material 1 ex., 180.0 mm SL, Vellore Fort moat, 22.3.94, F. 4138.

Habitat and size : Rivers and culture ponds. Grows to 91 cm. TL.

Distribution : Northern India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Burma. Introduced into Peninsular India and Sri Lanka.

12. *Puntius amphibius* (Valenciennes)

1842. *Capoeta amphibia* Valenciennes, *Hist. nat. Poiss.*, 16 : 282, pl. 478.

(Type locality Bombay)

Material 1 ex., 82.0 mm SL, Arakonam, 26.3.94, F. 4140.

Remarks : The specimen resembles *P. arenatus* (Day) considered to be its junior synonym (Menon, 1998) in the absence of colour markings on the body; the anterior dorsal base is dark and scales have dark bases in the upper half of body and there is no blotch on the caudal peduncle.

Habitat and size Rivers with moderate currents in the plains. Grows to 11 cm. TL.

Distribution Peninsular India and Sri Lanka.

13. *Puntius bimaculatus* (Bleeker)

1844. *Gnathopogon bimaculatus* Bleeker, *Vert. Nat. Holl. Maatsch. Haarlem*, (2) 20 : 17, pl. 4, fig. 1.

(Type locality Ceylon)

Material 14 exs., 15.0-30.0 mm SL, Amathan Kollai Road, Jamanamarathur, 1 12.92, F. 3974; 15 exs., 18.0-25.0 mm SL, Jamanamarathur, (Arasavalli) from a nullah, 4.12.92, F. 3975; 14 exs., 12.0-18.0 mm SL, Kavalur, Javadi Hills, 10.12.92.

Remarks D. 2/7 in all the specimens studied. Can be easily distinguished from all other *Puntius* with spots, by its elongated body and the caudal spot on the penultimate scale of the body. This species was encountered only in the hilly regions in N. Arcot District.

Habitat and size Generally inhabits ponds and streams in plains and mountains. Grows to 6 cm TL.

Distribution Sri Lanka, India Peninsular India.

14. *Puntius sophore* (Hamilton)

1822. *Cyprinus sophore* Hamilton, *Fish. Ganges*; 310, 389, pl. 19, Fig. 86

Type locality Ponds and rivers of the Gangetic provinces)

Material 68 exs., 13.0-43.0 mm SL, Gudiyatham, 21.3.94, F.4153; 9 exs., 20.0-40.0 mm SL, Arcot, 23.3.94, F. 4133; 2 exs., 79.0-102.0 mm SL, F. 4141

Remarks: In fresh specimens the opercle is red in colour and has a red lateral streak; dorsal spot on the bases of 3rd-6th branched rays and a spot on caudal base; L.tr. $4\frac{1}{2}/4$; pd. 9; L. 1.24. The juveniles, without a well formed L.1 resemble *P. vittatus*.

Habitat and size: Rivers, streams and ponds in the plains and submontaine regions. Grows to 13 cm TL.

Distribution Throughout India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Yunan.

15. *Puntius ticto* (Hamilton)

1822. *Cyprinus ticto* Hamilton, *Fish. Ganges* : 314, 398, pl.8, fig. 87.

(Type locality South eastern parts of Bengal)

Material 2 exs., 24.0 & 40.0 mm SL, Gudiyatham, 21.3.94, F. 4154.

Habitat and size Rivers, streams and ponds. Grows to 20cm TL.

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

16. *Puntius vittatus* Day

1865. *Puntius vittatus* Day *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, : 303.

(Type locality Madras).

Material 35exs., 11.0-23.0 mm SL, Seduvalai, 19.3.94, F. 4147

Habitat and size Ponds, streams and lakes in the plains, among vegetation, common in paddy fields. Grows to 5 cm TL.

Distribution India Peninsular India, Sri Lanka

Subfamily GARRINAE

17. *Garra mullya* (Sykes)

1841. *Chondrostoma mullya* Sykes, *Trans. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, 2 : 359, pl.62, fig. 3.

(Type locality Bheema river at Daunde, nr. Poona).

Material 1 ex., 22.5 mm SL, Amattan Kollai Road, Jamanamarathur, 1 12.92

Habitat and size Hill streams. Attains a length of 17 cm TL.

Distribution Throughout Peninsular India

Subfamily : LEUCISCINAE

18. *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix* (Valenciennes)

1844. *Leuciscus molitrix* Valenciennes, *Hist. nat. Poiss.*, 17 : 360.

(Type locality : China)

Material 1 ex., 215.0 mm SL, Vellore Fort Moat, 22.3.94, F. 4134.

Habitat and size Rivers, tanks and ponds. Grows to a length of 82 cm TL.

Distribution China. Introduced into India.

Family COBITIDAE

19. *Lepidocephalus thermalis* (Valenciennes)

1846. *Cobitis thermalis* Valenciennes, *Hist. nat. Poiss.*, 18 : 78.

(Type locality Hot springs of Kanniya, E.P. Sri Lanka)

Material 7 exs., 23.0-26.0 mm SL, a pond 2 km. Southeast of Elagiri Hills hotel, 8.12.92; 1 ex., 24.0mm SL, Kavalur, Javadi hills, 10.12.92; 1 ex., 24.0 mm. SL, Gudiyatham, 21.3.94; 52 exs., 24.0-44.0 mm SL, Arcot, 23.3.94, F. 4127.

Habitat and size Clear slow streams and standing waters. Grows to 6 cm TL.

Distribution Peninsular India, Sri Lanka.

Order :SILURIFORMES

Family:BAGRIDAE

20. *Aorichthys seenghala* (Sykes)

1841. *Platystoma seenghala* Sykes, *Trans. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, 2 : 371. pl. 65, fig. 2.

(Type locality Mulla-Motha river, Poona).

Material 1 ex., 265.0 mm SL, Sathanur dam, 12.3.94, F. 4124, pl.65, fig.2.

Habitat and size Large rivers, canals, bheels and inundated fields. Grows to 1.5 m.

Distribution India Ganga, Yamuna, Brahmaputra, Krishna, Godavary, Cauvery river systems. Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh.

Family HETEROPNEUSTIDAE

21 *Heteropneustes fossilis* (Bloch)

1794. *Silurus fossilis* Bloch, *Naturgesch. ausl. Fische*, 8 : 46, pl. 370, fig. 2.

(Type locality Tranquebar, Tamil Nadu)

Material 2 exs., 185.0 & 210.0 mm SL, Arakonam, 26.3.94, F. 4139.

Habitat and size Ponds, ditches, bheels, swamps, marshes and muddy rivers. Grows to 30 cm TL.

Distribution India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand, Laos.

Order CYPRINODONTIFORMES

Family ORYZIATIDAE

22. *Oryzias melastigma* (McClelland)

1839. *Aplocheilus melastigmus* McClelland, *Asiat. Res.*, 301, 427, pl. 42, fig. 3. and pl. 35, fig. 4.

(Type locality Calcutta).

Material 1 ex., 20.0mm SL, Seduvalai, 19.3.94; 1 ex., 19.0 mm SL Gudiyatham, 21.3.94; 40 exs., 16.0-26.0 mm SL, Arcot, 23.3.94, F.4131

Habitat and size Brackish waters and estuaries, usually found in shallow waters and swamps among vegetation along the margins of waters. Grows to 4 cm TL.

Distribution India, Bangladesh, Burma, Sri Lanka.

Family POECILIDAE

23. *Gambusia affinis* (Baird and Girard)

1853. *Heterandria affinis* Baird and Girard, *Proc. Acad. nat. Sci. Philad.*, 6 : 390.

(Type locality San Antonio river drainage, Texas).

Material 37 exs., 13.5-26.0 mm SL, Sathanur dam, 12.3.94, F. 4150; 15 exs., 13.0-26.0 mm SL, Peranampattu, 18.3.94, F. 4156; 1 ex., 23.0 mm SL, Gudiyatham, 21.3.94; 48 exs., 15.0-33.0 mm SL, Arcot, 23.3.94, F.4132.

Habitat and size All types of inland water bodies. Grows to 6.5 cm TL.

Distribution South-eastern United States of America. Introduced into India.

24. *Poecilia (Lebistes) reticulata* Peters

1859. *Poecilia reticulata* Peters, *K. Preussischen Akad. Wiss*, Berlin : 412.

(Type locality Venezuela)

Material: 3 exs., 15.0-20.0 mm SL, Elagiri Hills, 15.3.94; 715 exs., (410 (F), 240 (M), 65 fry), Alangayam, 16.3.94, F. 4155.

Habitat and size In all inland water bodies including stagnant waters. Male grows to 3 cm and female to 6 cm TL.

Distribution The Netherlands, Antilles, the Venezuelan islands, Trinidad and British Guiana, introduced into India.

Order : PERCIFORMES

Sub Order PERCOIDEI

Family CICHLIDAE

25. *Oreochromis mossambica* (Peters)

1852. *Chromis (Tilapia) mossambicus* Peters, *Montab. Akad. Wiss.*, Berlin : 681.

(Type locality Mozambique)

Material: 11 exs., 9.0-31.0 mm SL, Kavalur, Javadi Hills, 10.12.92; 1 ex., 19.0 mm SL, a pond 2 km. Southeast of Elagiri hills hotel, 8.12.92; 1 ex., 155.0 mm SL, Sathanur dam, 12.3.94, F. 4143; 6 exs., 19.0-82.0mm SL, Tamaraikulam, 14.3.94, F. 4148; 10 exs., 8.0-21.0mm SL, Alangayam, 16.3.94; 3 exs., 49.0-115.0 mm SL, Jolarpettai, 17.3.94, F. 4145; 15 exs., 8.0-20.0 mm SL, Peranampattu, 18.3.94 and 22 exs., 18.0-55.0 mm SL, Gudiyatham, 21.3.94, F. 4151

Habitat and size: Inhabits primarily brackish waters, also freshwaters. Grows to a length of 36 cm TL.

Distribution East Africa. Introduced into India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, etc.

26. *Oreochromis niloticus* (Hasselquist)

(Fig. 1)

1757. *Labrus niloticus* Hasselquist, *Iter. Palae.t.*, : 346.

Material 1ex., 165.0 mm SL, Vellore Fort Moat, 22.3.94, F. 4136.

Distribution India : Ganga, Yamuna, Brahmaputra, Krishna, Godavary, Cauvery river systems. Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh.

Family HETEROPNEUSTIDAE

21 *Heteropneustes fossilis* (Bloch)

1794. *Silurus fossilis* Bloch, *Naturgesch. ausl. Fische*, 8 : 46, pl. 370, fig. 2.

(Type locality Tranquebar, Tamil Nadu)

Material 2 exs., 185.0 & 210.0 mm SL, Arakonam, 26.3.94, F. 4139.

Habitat and size Ponds, ditches, bheels, swamps, marshes and muddy rivers. Grows to 30 cm TL.

Distribution India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand, Laos.

Order CYPRINODONTIFORMES

Family ORYZIATIDAE

22. *Oryzias melastigma* (McClelland)

1839. *Aplocheilus melastigmus* McClelland, *Asiat. Res.*, 301, 427, pl. 42, fig. 3. and pl. 35, fig. 4.

(Type locality : Calcutta).

Material 1 ex., 20.0mm SL, Seduvalai, 19.3.94; 1 ex., 19.0 mm SL Gudiyatham, 21.3.94; 40 exs., 16.0-26.0 mm SL, Arcot, 23.3.94, F.4131

Habitat and size Brackish waters and estuaries, usually found in shallow waters and swamps among vegetation along the margins of waters. Grows to 4 cm TL.

Distribution India, Bangladesh, Burma, Sri Lanka.

Family POECILIDAE

23. *Gambusia affinis* (Baird and Girard)

1853. *Heterandria affinis* Baird and Girard, *Proc. Acad. nat. Sci. Philad.*, 6 : 390.

(Type locality San Antonio river drainage, Texas).

Material 37 exs., 13.5-26.0 mm SL, Sathanur dam, 12.3.94, F. 4150; 15 exs., 13.0-26.0 mm SL, Peranampattu, 18.3.94, F. 4156; 1 ex., 23.0 mm SL, Gudiyatham, 21.3.94; 48 exs., 15.0-33.0 mm SL, Arcot, 23.3.94, F.4132.

29. *Channa punctatus* (Bloch)

1793. *Ophiocephalus punctatus* Bloch, *Naturges. ausland. Fische*, (7) : 139, pl. 358.

(Type locality Rivers and lakes of Coromandal Coast).

Material 17 exs., 20.0-50.0 mm SL, Gudiyatham, 21.3.94, F. 4152.

Remarks: About 12 horizontal lines on body in addition to the irregular bands; dorsal, anal and caudal spotted.

Habitat and size: Inhabits large freshwater ponds and tanks, generally in the plains. Grows to 31 cm TL.

Distribution Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Burma and Yunan.

30. *Channa striatus* (Bloch)

1793. *Ophiocephalus striatus* Bloch, *Naturges. ausland. Fische*, (7) : 141, pl. 359.

(Type locality : Malabar).

Material 3 exs., 98.0-120.0 mm SL, Jolarpettai, 17.3.94, F.4144.

Habitat and size: Inhabits freshwater ponds, streams and tanks of plains; prefers stagnant muddy waters and grassy tanks. Grows to 75 cm TL.

Distribution: India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Burma, Malay Archipelago, Thailand and South China.

DISCUSSION

Earlier reports on the Ichthyofauna of this area include those of Eastern Ghats (Misra, 1938) and Javadi Hills (Lazarus et al. 1988; Rema Devi, 1992). Thirty species are reported in the present collection including 5 exotic species of which *Oreochromis mossambica* (Peters) is very well established both in the hills and plains, posing a great threat to the indigenous species. One specimen of *O. niloticus* (Hasselquist) has been recorded from the Vellore Fort moat. This is the first record from India.

Fishes reported earlier, but not represented in the present collections are *Puntius dorsalis* (Jerdon) and *Cirrhinus fulungee* (Sykes) (Misra, 1938). Misra (1938) reported 37 species from Eastern Ghats of which 11 species are from localities in N. Arcot District. Lazarus et al 1988, reported 11 species of which *D. rerio* (Ham.) *P. chola* (Ham.), *Mystus armatus* (Day) and *Macrogathus aculeatus* (Bloch) are not recorded in the present collection. Also *Barilius bendelisis* (Hamilton), *Noemacheilus denisoni denisoni* Day and *Mystus montanus* (Jerdon)

(Rema Devi, 1992) are also not represented. Summing up all these reports 39 species are found in this part of Tamil Nadu.

It was observed that of the widely distributed *Puntius* and *Channa* species, *P. bimaculatus* and *C. gachua* were present only in the hilly regions.

SUMMARY

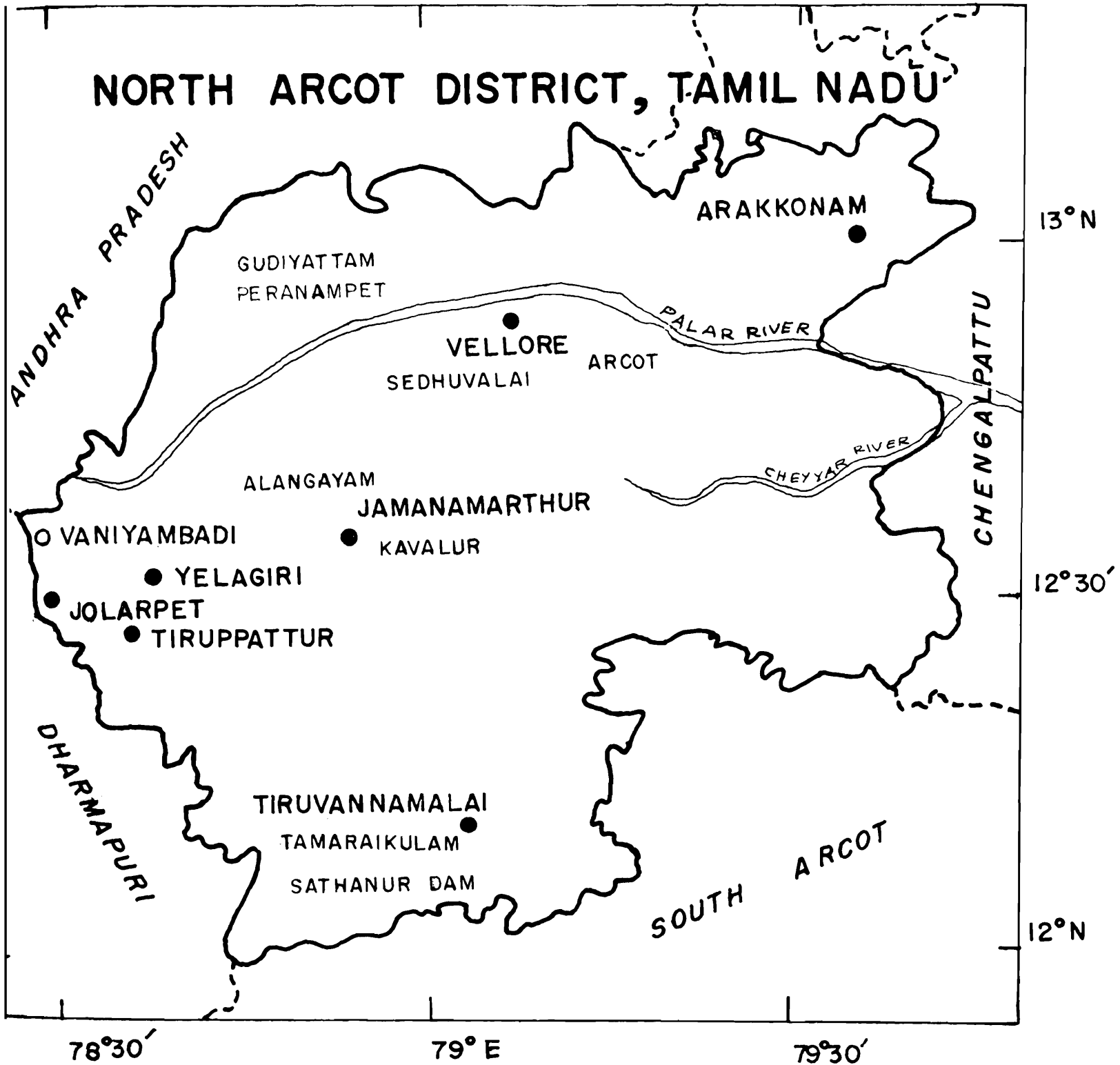
Studies on a collection of fish from North Arcot District has revealed 30 species including a new report of one exotic species. From earlier reports and the present study 39 species are known from this part of Tamil Nadu.

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Map-1