

STUDIES ON THE ICHTHYOFAUNA OF NASIK DISTRICT, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

D. F. SINGH & G. M. YAZDANI

Zoological Survey of India, Western Regional Station, Pune-5

INTRODUCTION

The Ichthyofauna of Maharashtra have been the subject of only a few studies. Annandale (1919) studied the fishes of Pune and Satara districts, Kalawar and Kelkar (1956) of Kolhapur while Frazer (1942), Tonapi & Mulherkar (1963), Tilak & Tiwari (1976) studied for Poona district. Recently Singh (in press) and Singh & Kamble (in press) surveyed the fish fauna of Dhulia and Jalgaon districts respectively.

Apart from a survey of fishes of Deolali (Hora & Misra 1937, 38) no attempt has been made so far to study the Ichthyofauna of Nasik district although the river Godavari which originates from this region is known to contain fish fauna of zoographical significance. Hora & Misra (1938) described the interesting hill stream Cyprinid fish *Parapsilorhynchus prateri* from Darna river near Deolali, which is a tributary of R. Godavari.

To explore the faunal wealth of this district 4 surveys were conducted (1973, 84, 87, 88). The present work is based on fish material collected during these four surveys. Nasik district (Fig. 1) lies between 19° 35' and 20° 52' north latitude and 73° 16' and 74° 56' east longitude, covering an area of about 15,582 km². To the north west Nasik district borders the Dangs and Surat districts of Gujarat while to its north lies Dhulia district of Maharashtra.

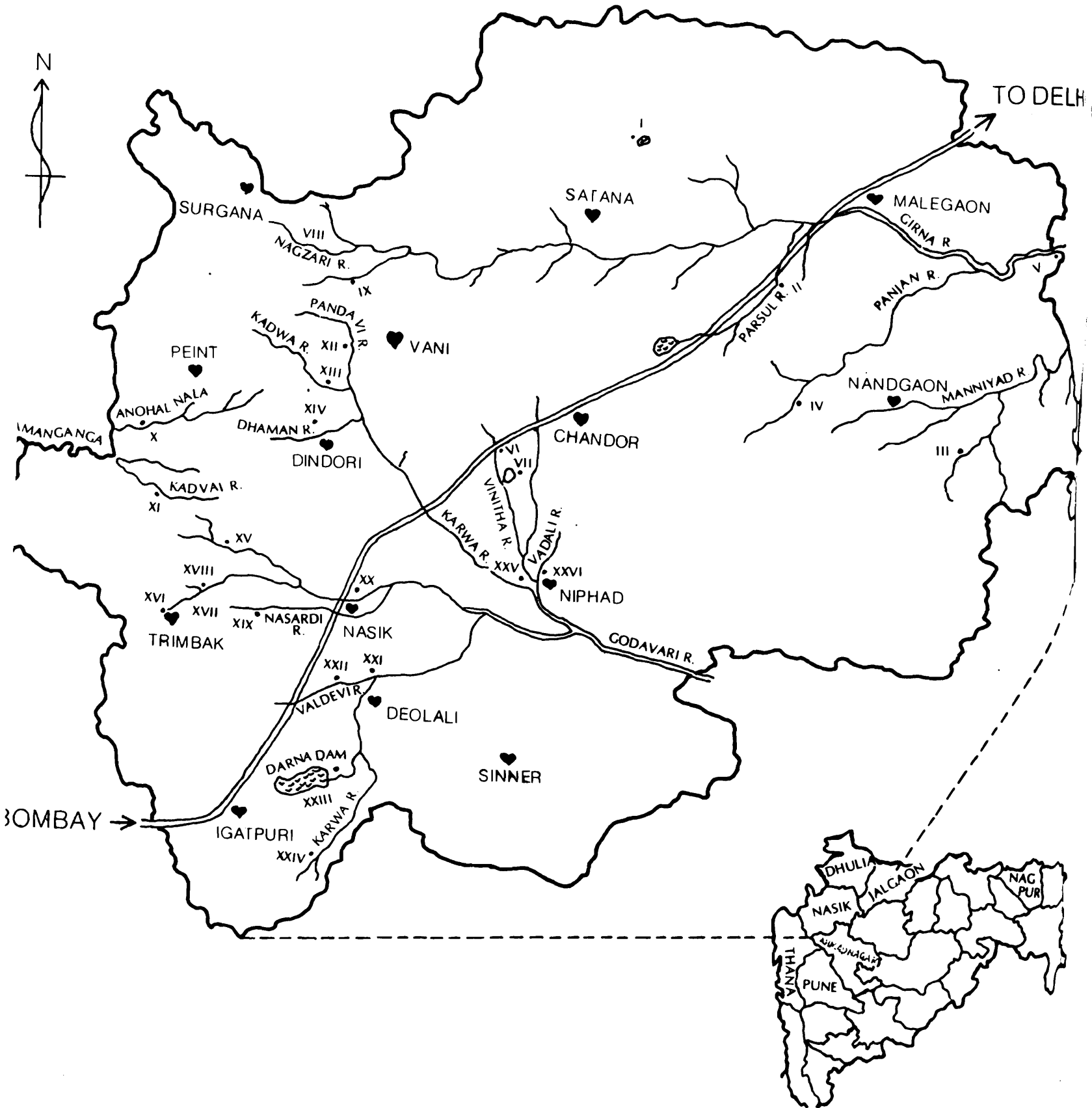
The district is drained by two chief rivers, the Girna and Godavari, their tributaries and a few small Konkan rivers. Godavari or the southern Ganga originates from the Sahyadris (Western ghats) at Trimbak, about 25 km west of Nasik. A few kilometers upstream from Nasik a dam (Gangapur) has been built across the river. From Nasik the river follows a east-south-eastern course. The principal tributaries of Godavari are the Nasardi, Darna and Kadwa rivers. The Girna rises at about 8 km east of Sugana in the Sahyadris mountains and flows eastwards along a wide bed. On its way it receives a number of tributaries like the Panjan and Manniyad. The Konkan rivers originate from the western side of the Sahyadris and flow westwards into the Arabian sea. The chief river is the Damanganga which rises near Peint. It traverses a long winding and deeply entrenched course before turning westwards in Gujarat State.

NASIK DISTRICT

♥ PROMINENT TOWNS

I - XXVI NUMBERED COLLECTING STATIONS

= NATIONAL HIGHWAY NO 3



List of Collection stations.

A total of twentysix collecting stations were made from where the fish samples were taken for study. Cast net & bagnets were used for collecting.

Satana taluka

- I. Changaon tank (Satana-Nampur road)

Malegaon taluka

- II. Parsul river (Devia-Malegaon road)

Nandgaon taluka

- III. Manniyad river (Nandgaon-Aurangabad road)
- IV. Panjan river (Nagapur village)
- V. Girna river (Pilkhod village)

Chandor taluka

- VI. Vinitha river (Vadalibhol village)
- VII. Kedaraya lake

Surgana taluka

- VIII. Nagzari river (Vani-borgaon road)
- IX. Girna river (Hiradpada village)

Peint taluka

- X. Anohal nalla (13 km SW of Peint)
- XI. Kadvai river (Hrasul)

Dindori taluka

- XII. Pandave river (Vani-Borgaon road)
- XIII. Kadwa river (Dindori-Vani road)
- XIV. Dhaman river (Dindori)

Nasik taluka

- XV. Kashiganga river (Vaghera-Girnare road)
- XVI. Godavari river (Trimbak)
- XVII. Banganga stream (Trimbak)
- XVIII. Pundi nalla (Trimbak)
- XIX. Nasardi river (Trimbak-Nasik road)
- XX. Godavari river, Nasik
- XXI. Darna river, Deolali
- XXII. Valdevi river, Deolali

Igatpuri taluka

- XXIII. Darna dam
- XXIV. Karwa river, (Pimpalgaon dukra)

Niphad taluka

- XXV. Kadva river, Basalpur
- XXVI. Vadali river (Niphad)

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Order : Osteoglossi formes

Family Notopleridae

1. *Notopterus notopterus* (Pallas)1769. *Gymnotus notopterus* Pallas, *Spicill. Zool.*, Petersburg 7, p-40, Pl. 6, fig. 2 Typeloc. Indian Ocean.*Material* XXV, ^

Order : Cypriniformes

Family : Cyprinidae

Subfamily Cultrinae

2. *Salmostoma untrahi* (Day)1869. *Chela untrahi* Day, *Proc. zool. Soc.*, p. 381.

Subfamily : Rasbnoirinae

3. *Danio aequipinnatus* McClelland1839. *Perilampus aequipinnatus* McClelland. *Asiatic Researches*, 19, p. 393. Type Loc : Assam.*Material* : I-3; VI-46.4. *Rasbora daniconius* (Ham.)1822. *Cyprinus deniconius* Hamilton. *Fish. Ganges* p. 327. Type-Loc : rivers of Southern Bengal.*Material* I-6; VII-8; VI-40; XIV-1; XV-2; XVI-13; XVIII-1.5. *Barilius bendelisis* (Ham.)1807. *Cyprinus bendelisis* Hamilton, *Journey Mysore*, 3, p. 345, pl. 32. Type-Loc : rivers of Mysore.*Material* I-29; VI-2; VII-1; II-2; XXIV-1.

Subfamily : Cyprininae

6. *Puntius conchoni* (Ham)1822. *Cyprinus conchoni* Hamilton. *Fish Ganges*, pp. 317, 389. Type-Loc : North east Bengal and rivers Kosi & Ami.*Material* I-23.7. *Puntius ticto ticto* (Ham)1822. *Cyprinus ticto* Hamilton, *Fish Ganges* pp. 314, 389, p. 18, Fig. 87. Type-Loc : South-eastern parts of Bengal.*Material* XXIV-1.

* The first Roman number denotes the station No., followed by the number of examples collected from that locality.

8. Labeo boggut (Sykes)

1841. *Chondrostoma boggut* Sykes, *trans. zool. Soc.*, London, 2, p. 359. Type-Loc : Poona.
Material : I-3; VII-7; XXV-1.

9. Labeo pangusia (Ham)

1822. *Cyprinus pangusia* Hamilton, *Fish Ganges*, pp. 285, 386. type-Loc ; River Kosi.
Material : XX-1.

10. Parapsilorhynchus prateri Hora & Misra

1938. *Parapsilorhynchus prateri* Hora and Misra *Jour. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* XI(1) : 20-38,
 Type-Loc : Deolaii, Nasik.
Material : XVII-53.

11. Parapsilorhynchus tentaculatus (Annandale)

1919. *Psilorhynchus tentaculatus*, Annandale, *Rec. Indian Mus.* XVI, p. 128. Type Loc :
 Khandalla, Poona.
Material : XI-14.

Subfamily Garrinae

12. Crossocheilus latius latius (Ham)

1822. *Cyprinus latius* Hamilton, *Fish, Ganges*, pp. 345, 393. Type-Loc : The Tista.

13. Garra mullya (Sykes)

1841. *Chondrostoma mullya* Sykes, *trans. zool. Soc.*, London, 2, p. 359, pl. 62, fig. 3.
Material : I-1; V-1; VII-1; XVI-1; XVII-2.

14. Garra gotyla stenorhynchus (Jerdon)

1849. *Gonorhynchus stenorhynchus* Jerdon, *Madras J.lit. Sci.* Madras, 15, p. 310, type-loc :
 Bhany river, Nilgiris.
Material XII-1.

Family : Cobitidae

Subfamily Noemacheilinae

15. Oreonectes evezardi (Day)

1878. *Nemachilus evezardi* Day, *Fish India*, p. 613, pl. 153, Fig. 11. Type-Loc : Poona.
Material II-8; IV-2; VIII-1; XI-9; XV-1; XVIII-10; XVI-28.

16. Noemacheilus botia botia (Hamilton)

1822. *Cobitis botia* Hamilton *Fish Ganges*, pp. 350, 358, 394, 394. Type-Loc : rivers of north-
 eastern parts of Bengal.
Material I-6; III-1; XXIII-1.

17. Noemacheilus denisonii Day

1867. *Nemacheilus denisonii* Day, *Procx. zool. Soc. London*, p. 287.
Material III-2; VI-2; XIII-1; XVI-5; XXI-8; XXIV-33.

Subfamily Cobitinae

18. *Lepidocephalus (Lepidocephalichthys) guntea* (Ham)

1822. *Cobitis guntea* Hamilton *Fish Ganges*, pp. 353, 394. Type-Loc : Ponds and freshwater rivers of Bengal.

Material I-2; III-2; XIII-1; XVI-50; IV-1; VIII-1.

19. *Lepidocephalus (Lepidocephalichthys) thermalis* (Val)

1846. *Cobitis thermalis* Valenciennes *Hist. nat. Poiss.* 18 p. 78. Type-loc : Ceylon.

Material : VI-24; XV-7; XVII-31.

Order : Siluriformes

Family : Bagridae

20. *Mystus cavasitus* (Hamilton)

1822. *Pimelodus cavasius* Hamilton *Fish Ganges*, pp. 203, 379, pl. 11 Fig. 67. Type-Loc. Larger freshwater rivers of Gangetic provinces.

Material I-1.

Order : Atheriniformes

Family Poeciliidae

21. *Gambusia affinis* (Baird & Girard)

1853. *Heterandia patruelis* Baird and Girard, *Proc. Acad. nat. Sci. Philad.* 6, p. 390. type-Loc : Rio Sabinal, Texas.

Material : IV-14; XXII-26.

Order : Perciformes

Family : Gobiidae

22. *Glossobius giuris* (Hamilton)

1822. *Gobius giuris* Hamilton, *Fish Ganges*, pp. 51, 366, pl. 33 fig. 15. Type-Loc : Ponds & freshwater rivers of Gangetic Provinces.

Material XXIV-9; XXV-4.

23. *Chanda nama* Hamilton

1822. *Chanda nama* Hamilton, *Fish Ganges*, pp. 109, 371, pl. 39, fig. 37. Type-Loc : Bengal.

Material XXIII-8.

Order Channiformes

Family Channidae

24. *Channa orientalis* Schneider

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

Material IV-1.

Hora and Misra (1938) described a new species *Parapsilorhynchus prateri* from Darna stream near Barnes High School estate, Deolali. In 1988 we visited the type locality but failed to get a single specimen. The stream (which ultimately meets Darna river near Deolali cantt). was choked with weeds and was in a highly polluted stage due to sewage from nearby housing colonies. The present records of the allied species. *P. tentaculatus* (Annandale) form the first record from this district. It was collected from Kadvai river near Harsul (Peint taluka). The *Parapsilorhynchus* has a very restricted distribution, mainly occurring in the streams of the western ghats and the Satpura hill ranges.

SUMMARY

The fish fauna of Nasik district was surveyed at 26 collecting stations covering the entire area. Godavari river and its major tributaries were specially surveyed. 579 specimens were examined, comprising of 24 species. The presence of the Cyprinid fish *Parapsilorhynchus tentaculatus* (Annandale) is the first record from this region.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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