

Faunal Resources of India

India is very rich in terms of biological diversity due to its unique biogeographical location, diversified climatic conditions and enormous ecodiversity and geodiversity. India's immense biological diversity encompasses ecosystems, populations, species and their genetic make-up . This diversity can be attributed to the vast variety in physiography and climatic situations resulting in a diversity of ecological habitats ranging from tropical, sub-tropical, temperature, alpine to desert. According to world biogeographic classification, India represents two of the major realms (the Palaearctic and Indo-Malayan) and three biomes (Tropical Humid Forests, Tropical Dry/Deciduous Forests and Warm Deserts/Semi-Deserts). Wildlife Institute of India has proposed a modified classification – which divides the country into 10 biogeographic regions : Trans-Himalayan, Himalayan , Indian Desert, Semi-Arid, Western Ghats, Deccan Peninsula, Gangetic Plain, North East India, Islands and Coasts. In fact, within only about 2% of world's total landsurface, India is known to have over 7.35 % of the species of animals that the world holds and this percentage accounts nearly for 91,307 species so far known, of which insects alone include 61,151 species. Indeed, those groups that are known to occur in India have not received adequate attention, while some other invertebrates (like Nemertinea, Nematomorpha, Priapulida, Pogonophora and Pentastomida) are not known at all in India. Further studies will not only reveal many more species but also certainly enhance the information on endemic species.

Recorded animal species

Taxonomic group	No. of species		% in India
	World	India	
PROTISTA (Protozoa)	31250	2577	8.24
ANIMALIA			
Mesozoa	71	10	14.08
Porifera	4562	500	10.70
Cnidaria	9916	842	8.49
Ctenophora	100	12	12.00
Platyhelminthes	17500	1622	9.22
Nemertinea	600	-	-
Rotifera	2500	330	13.20
Gastrotricha	3000	100	3.33
Kinorhyncha	100	10	10.00
Nematoda	30000	2850	9.50
Nematomorpha	250	-	-
Acanthocephala	800	229	28.62
Sipuncula	145	35	24.14
Mollusca	66535	5072	7.62

Taxonomic group	No. of species		% in India
	World	India	
Echiura	127	43	33.86
Annelida	12700	840	6.61
Onychophora	100	1	1.00
Arthropoda	970670	69903	7.20
Crustacea	35534	2934	8.26
Insecta	861696	61151	7.10
Arachnida	73440	5818	7.90
Pycnogonida	600	16	2.67
Paupoda	360	-	-
Chilopoda	3000	100	3.33
Diplopoda	7500	162	2.16
Symphyla	120	4	3.33
Merostomata	4	2	50.00
Phoronida	11	3	27.27
Bryozoa (Ectoprocta)	4000	200	5.00
Entoprocta	60	10	16.66
Brachiopoda	300	3	1.00
Pogonophora	80	-	-
Priapulida	8	-	-
Pentastomida	70	-	-
Chaetognatha	111	30	27.02
Tardigrada	514	30	5.83
Echinodermata	6223	765	12.29
Hemichordata	120	12	10.00
Chordata	48451	4994	10.31
Protochordata	2106	119	5.65
Pisces	21723	2546	11.72
Amphibia	5150	240	4.66
Reptilia	5817	460	7.91
Aves	9026	1232	13.66
Mammalia	4629	397	8.58
Total (Animalia)	1191208	88730	7.45

Taxonomic group	No. of species		% in India
	World	India	
Grand Total (Protista+ Animalia)	1222458	91307*	7.46

* Updated upto January 2007

**For More details Refer *Faunal Resources of India*, (by Ramakrishna & J R B Alfred) 2007.
published by Zoological Survey of India**