

ZSI e-NEWS

The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of Zoological Survey of India

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ANIMAL OF THE MONTH



Stump Tailed Macaque

CHECK LIST OF FAUNA OF INDIA

1. Gelechiidae (Lepidoptera: Insecta)
2. Ceraphronoidea (Hymenoptera: Insecta)

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VIDEO



Nadkarni's
caecilian

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NEWS



OUT OF THE BOX



POSTER SERIES

Brachyuran Crabs of East Coast of India



PAINTINGS FROM ZSI HERITAGE ALBUM



Headquarters, Kolkata

Extensive field surveys were conducted in the States of Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Local surveys were carried out in and around the wetland areas (Bortibeel) of North 24 Parganas, West Bengal.

Out of the material studied, 11 species of Hymenoptera and 1 species of Crustacea were found to be new records to West Bengal. Two species of Pisces, *Alepes kleinii* (Bloch) (Pisces: Carangidae) and *Torquigener brevipinnis* (Regan) (Pisces: Tetraodontiformes) also were recorded as new to the coastal waters of West Bengal and Orissa, respectively.

During the month, scientists of Headquarters identified 6 species of parasitic nematodes of cockroaches, 6 species of Coleoptera, 10 species of Diptera, 16 species of Hemiptera, 16 species of Hymenoptera, 5 species of Isoptera, 8 species of Lepidoptera, 9 species of Odonata, 5 species of Orthoptera, 15 species of spiders, 7 species of mites, 2 species of Crustacea, 11 species of Mollusca and 5 species of Amphibia from the States of Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal as well as the Namdapha National Park (Arunachal - Pradesh), Sunderbans Biosphere Reserve (West Bengal) and Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu.

Identification services were rendered on five lots of specimens, received from different organizations.

One research paper was published, six accepted for publication and eight communicated.

Students and teachers from the Cotton College, Guwahati, Dept. of Zoology, Guwahati University, Guwahati, Assam and research scholars from the Department of Zoology, Calcutta University, Kolkata, visited different sections of ZSI Headquarters.

Four scientists of Headquarters attended the meeting on Sundarban Biodiversity - State of Art - on 11th November.

Director-in-Charge attended the 16th Governing Body Meeting of SACON Society held in MoEF, New Delhi. He also attended the

Tenth General Body Meeting of Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development (IBSD) at New Delhi.

ZSI Headquarters, Kolkata, organized a “Multi Skilling Training Programme for Erstwhile Group- D employees” from 10th to 12th November, 2010. Five employees from ZSI Headquarters, as well as 6 from Regional Centers, participated in the training programme. The Training and Extension Division of ZSI, Kolkata, organized a “XVI Training course on Collection, Preservation and Identification of Insects and Mites of Economic Importance” from 23rd to 26th November. Scientists of ZSI, Headquarters delivered lectures on

different Orders of Insects. Field training was also organized for the participants. Publication:

Deuti, K. 2010. Distribution and Status of the Endangered River Terrapin *Batagurba-ska* (Gray) in the Indian Sunderbans. In *Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises of India. ENVIS, Wildlife Institute of India*, 12 (1): 53-56.



Torquigener brevipinnis (Regan) -
A new record to India

● In this Issue

Marine Biology Regional Centre, Chennai

Ten species of Soft Corals, 3 species of Gorgonids and 14 species of Echinoderms were identified and registered during the month, out of the materials collected from the recent survey tour to Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve. Besides, 6 species of Polychaetes, 6 species of Testacids, 2 species of Ciliates and 6 species of marine ornamental fishes were identified. Two research papers were published during the month. One advisory service was rendered to Hauz Khaz Police Station, New Delhi, on molluscan shells referred to the Centre.

A senior scientist of the Centre delivered a lecture on “Marine Bio-resource of Gujarat with special reference to coral reef ecosystem - an overview” in the Research Advisory Meeting of Marine Bio-resource Centre (MBRC), Dhanvantri, Mandir, GAU, Jamnagar. A scientist of the Centre attended the Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC) meeting at SRM College of pharmacy, Kattangulathur as a CPCSEA nominee and delivered a lecture on “Climate Change” in a workshop on the “Science and Technology” organized by Science City, Chennai.

Different varieties of animals including ornamental fishes and 3 species of sea snakes were introduced in the aquarium tanks.

Three hundred and fifty five tourists and school children visited the marine aquarium. Publications:

1. Bindu, L. 2010. On two new species of Centropyxidae (Protozoa: Rhizopoda) from Pangi Valley, Himachal Pradesh, India. *J. Exp. Zool. India*, 13(2): 425-427.
2. Bindu, L & Nandi, N. C. 2010. A synoptic list of freeliving and parasitic protozoa from Maharashtra. Pp. 13-34. In: Gupta Rajiv, K. (Ed.), *Advancements in Invertebrate Taxonomy and Biodiversity*. Agrobios (International) [ISBN 81-904309-1-2]



Epinephelus malabaricus



Siganus canaliculatus

● In this Issue

Southern Regional Centre, Chennai

Field surveys were conducted in the Pallikaranai wetland ecosystems on 19th November and in the Guindy National Park, Chennai on 24th and 25th, for the preparation of a book on the “Faunal diversity in Raj Bhavan” on request from the Raj Bhavan, Chennai. A senior scientist of the Centre participated in the 7th Annual Meeting of the IUCN SSC/Wetlands International Freshwater Fish Specialist Group and the 4th International Zoo and Aquarium Symposium held at Chester, UK from 4th to 7th November, 2010; the scientist also chaired the South Asian Freshwater Fish Specialist Group (FFSG) in the former, and presented

two papers on the fresh water fishes and their habitats. Six manuscripts, were reviewed for various journals and comments offered. Two research papers were published.

Publications:

1. Marcus Knight, J.D. and Rema Devi, K. 2010. Species persistence a re-look at the freshwater fish fauna of Chennai, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 2(12)1334-1337.
2. Thilak J. 2010. Cladocera fauna of Veerangana Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuary, Damoh district, M.P. *Vaniki Sandesh*, 2:10-12.

🔍 In this Issue

Freshwater Biology Regional Centre, Hyderabad

The document on the Taxonomic and Ecological studies on Aquatic Insects in and around Hyderabad has been submitted. Final report write-up on Limnological and Faunal Diversity in Kolleru Lake, post-dismantling of illegal aquacultural ponds were deferred following initiation of a small, time bound Rapid Faunal Assessment of faunae in river Godavari, Khammam & Karimnagar districts. The small study, initiated on request from

the Environment Protection and Training Institute (EPTRI), Hyderabad, focused on aquatic biomonitoring of riverine faunae in and around two small sand mining sites at Kothagudem Mines and Bhoopannapalli Mines, of the State's leading coal mining company. A report (Biological aspects list of Faunae) based up on field studies in the two respective sites has been submitted.

🔍 In this Issue

Western Regional Centre, Pune

Scientists of the Centre identified 19 species of Odonata, 6 species of Cladocera, 5 species of Orthoptera and 1 species of Mollusca, from Radhanagari W.L.S and Chandoli N.P. The identified insect collections in the faunal depository of the Centre were rearranged in 110 cabinets of the new Compact Insect

Storage System.

A scientist of the Centre prepared a report on “Biodiversity and Status of Riverine Ecosystem of the Western Ghats” for the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel, MoEF - <http://westernghatsindia.org/com-missioned-papers>.



Red Sand Boa, *Eryx johnii*



Indian Black Turtle, *Melanochelys trijuga*

🔍 In this Issue

North Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong

During the month, 14 species of fishes and 6 species of amphibians were identified from Keibul Lamjao National Park and its adjoining areas in Manipur. From the backlog collections, 2 families (*Heptogeniidae* and *Leptophlebiidae*) and 1 genus (*Ecdyonurus*) of Ephemeroptera were identified. Preparation of a pictorial Hand Book on “Fishes of North East India” dealing with over 400 species is in progress. A scientist of the Centre delivered

a talk on the “Collection, Preservation and Identification of insects (Butterflies)” at Lady Keane College, Shillong.

A staff of the Centre attended the training programme for Group-C staff at Headquarters, from 6th-14th of the month. In connection with the progress regarding the introduction of Official language (Hindi), 8 staff of the Centre appeared in the Prabodh examination and 3 in the Pravin examination conducted at Shillong.

● [In this Issue](#)

Arunachal Pradesh Regional Centre, Itanagar

Moths and butterflies collected during the Namdapha expedition were mounted for taxonomic studies. Four scientific papers were reviewed and comments offered. One research paper was published and three research manuscripts finalised for submission. One researcher from the Rajiv Gandhi University visited the museum to study the Hemiptera collection. Forty eight school children visited the Centre's museum and library during the month.

Publication:

Dam, D. and A. Kumar (2009). Record of occurrence of a rare species of fish *Chaca chaca* (Hamilton, 1822) from two different

localities in Arunachal Pradesh. *Bulletin of Arunachal Pradesh Forest Research* 25 (1 & 2): 10-13 (released in 2010).



A view of the museum in APRC

● [In this Issue](#)

Estuarine Biology Regional Centre, Gopalpur-on-Sea

Thirty species of freshwater fishes were identified from the collection of the Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh. It includes one new record from the State. Five species of Mosquitoes from the collection of Ganjam District, Orissa, 3 species of aquatic Hemiptera, 4 species of crabs and 14 species of prawns from the collection of

The Brahmani-Baitarani Estuary, Bhadrak District, Orissa were also identified. Besides, out of the unidentified collection of prawns from the three estuaries of India, namely Cauvery, Budhabalanga and Nuanai, 15 species were identified. Two research papers were accepted for publication.

*Hydrometra greeni**Psilorhynchus balitora*

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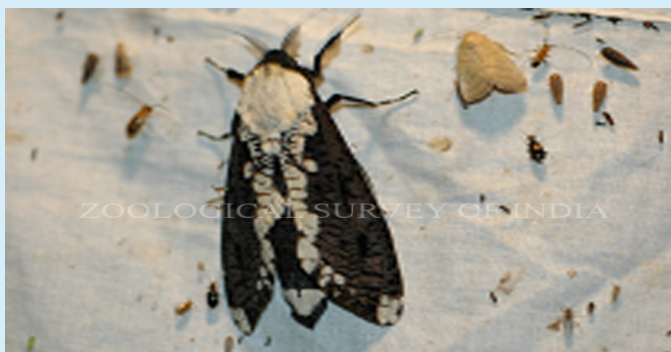
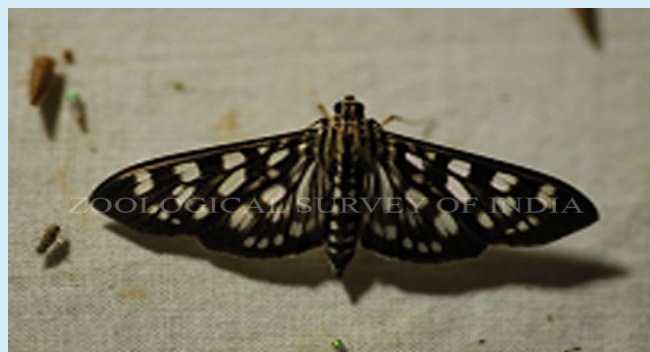
Central Zone Regional Centre, Jabalpur

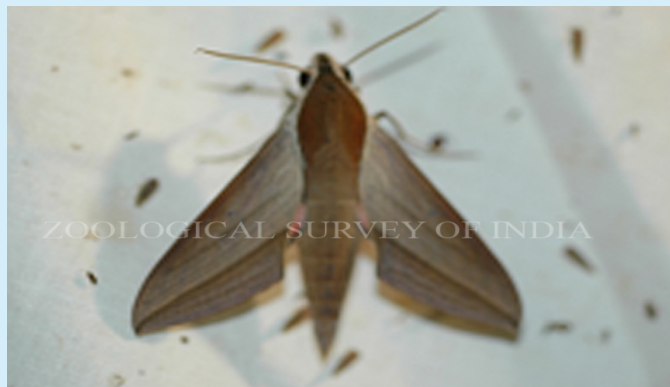
Twenty species of Scarabaeid beetles (Coleoptera) and 32 species of moths (Heterocera) were identified out of the backlog collections. Of the moths identified, 12 species turned out to be new records from the State of Chhattisgarh. Another lot comprising of 7 species of butterflies (Lepidoptera) and 4 species of Odonata were also identified from Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh. During the month, three research papers were reviewed for outside journals and comments offered. Identification service was rendered to E.M. Shambat Research Station, Agricultural Research Corporation, Khartoum North, Sudan on a gall midge (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae). Information on dipteran families and related literature were provided to the National Centre for Biological Sciences, TIFR, Bangalore.

A senior Scientist of the Centre attended the following programmes/meetings:

“International Consultation on DNA Barcoding at National Agricultural Science Complex, Pusa, New Delhi; 'Meeting of Core Group of Indian National MAB, Committee to accept the Final Technical Reports of the completed Research Projects under the Biosphere Reserve Scheme' held at Paryavaran Bhawan, MOEF, New Delhi; a meeting with Dr A. A. Boaz, APCCF & Director, SFRTI, Raipur, Chhattisgarh to finalise TOR for the projects to be undertaken by the Zoological Survey of India; National Conference on Biodiversity & Biotechnology “Biodiversity Resources Management & Sustainable Development” and presented two papers at Govt. M.S. Golwalkar College, Rewa (M.P.); Inaugural Programme of 'National Seminar on Current Advances in Biosciences : Application of Health, Environment and Agriculture.' Held at Hitkarini Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Jabalpur.

Moths (Lepidoptera) of Veerangana Durgavati W.L.S

*Xyleutes persona**Pygospila tyres*



Theretra alecto alecto



Theretra oldenlandiae oldenlandiae



Hippotion boerhaviae



Othreis fullonia - Female

[In this Issue](#)

Gangetic Plains Regional Centre, Patna

The riverine fauna of the River Damodar in Jharkhand and West Bengal were identified in to 15 species of fishes and 7 species of mollusca, during the month. Identification and advisory service was rendered to the Dept. of Zoology, Jai Prakash University, Chapra, Bihar, on Hemiptera (Insecta). 45 entries of identified fauna were made in the faunal database of the Centre. 80 titles of Books / Journals received were entered in the library database of the Centre. A scientist of the Centre attended the training on Good Governance at the Institute of

Secretariat Training and Management, Department of Personnel and Training, New Delhi from 22nd to 26th of the month. A scientist of the Centre attended a National Conference on Environmental degradation and its impact on mankind at Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab from 19th to 20th November and made an oral presentation on 'Taxonomy: An important tool for biodiversity conservation', and as well as chaired a session. 30 visitors paid their visits to the museum and Library of the Centre.



Chitala chitala



Labeo calbasu

*Mystus cavacius**Sperata singhala*

● In this Issue

Desert Regional Centre, Jodhpur

Scientists of the Centre identified 25 species of Lepidoptera, 5 species of Coleoptera, 3 species of Pisces and 2 species of Nematoda, from various environs of Rajasthan. Two research papers were published. Final report of the EIA Project on “*Faunal Study in Hadla Rawaleton, Hadla Bhatiyar and Mokha Lignite Block, District Bikaner (Rajasthan)*” was submitted. Identification and advisory services were rendered to the Dept. of Zoology, Govt. Dungeer College, Bikaner on 18 species of Odonata and Lepidoptera. A scientist of the Centre delivered two lectures in the Foresters' Refresher Course organized by the Desert Forest Training Centre, Jodhpur on 20th November. A scientist of the Centre attended the 'Global Bird Watchers Conference' held at

Khijadiya, Jamnagar, Gujarat, organized by Dept. of Tourism, Govt. of Gujarat and State Forest Dept., Gujarat from 25th -27th. 64 entries of identified fauna were made in the faunal Database of the Centre. 82 entries pertaining to the books in the Centre's library was made employing the software, e-granthalaya. 218 visitors visited the Museum.

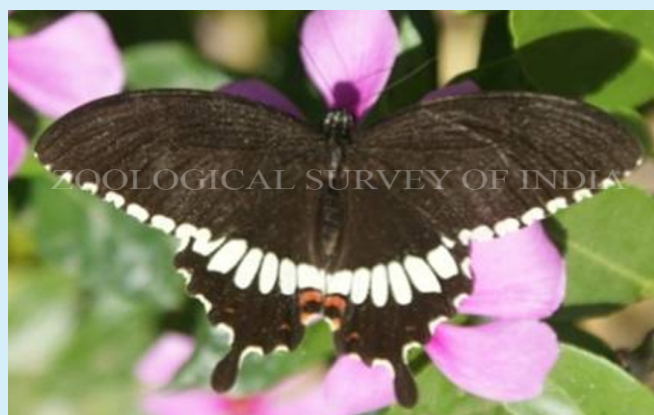
Publications:

1. Sharma, G. 2010. Studies on Odonata and Lepidoptera (Insecta: Arthropoda) fauna of Mount Abu, Rajasthan, India. *Hexapoda*.17(2): 136-141.
2. Sharma, G. and Ramamurthy, V.V. 2010. An update on the insect fauna listed under the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. *Hexapoda*. 17(2): 119-135.



Hills around Mount Abu W.L.S

*Ictinogomphus rapax*

*Junonia orithya**Papilio polytes*Desert Fox, *Vulpes vulpes pusilla*Asiatic Jackal, *Canis aureus*

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Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair

Field surveys were conducted in Landfall Island, Smith & Ross Islands, East Island, Lamia Bay, North Bay, Rutland Island and Inglis Island during 8th to 21st November to assess the marine and terrestrial faunal communities. It is observed that 15-20% of coral recovery out of the bleaching phenomena occurred during April to May 2010 in Landfall and Rutland Islands. However, in other places of study, new recruits of corals could be seen at a depth ranging between 5 and 15m with a density of 12-23 colonies/10m². A total of 66 species of corals, 4 species of sponges, 22 species of echinoderms, 21 species of gastropods, 27 species of nudibranchs, 2 species of polyclads, 13 species of fishes, 22 species of crabs, 48 species of zooplankton and 28 species of phytoplankton were identified from the marine environment. In terrestrial counterpart, 49 species of butterflies, 8

species of odonates, 6 species of reptiles and 1 species of Amphibia were identified besides observing 52 species of birds. In addition, 44 species of fishes were identified from the unnamed collections of the Centre. Among the corals identified, 9 species viz. *Leptoseris mycetoseroides* Wells, 1954, *Pavona bipartita* Nemenzo, 1980, *Favia danae* Verrill, 1872, *Echinopora forskaliana* (Milne Edwards & Haime, 1849) *Montastrea colemani* Veron, 2000, *Montastrea valenciennesi* (Milne Edwards & Haime, 1849), *Favites russelli* (Wells, 1954), *Echinophyllia orpheensis* Veron & Pichon, 1980 and *Porites densa* Vaughan, 1918 encountered from Rutland Island were new distributional records to Indian waters. Twenty two species of fishes, 17 species of corals and 7 species of polyclads were registered in National Zoological Collection of the Centre.

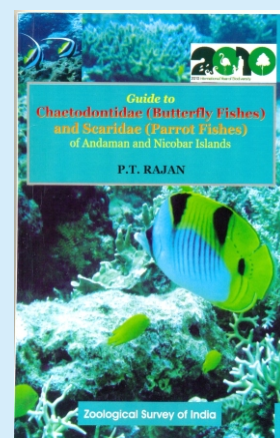
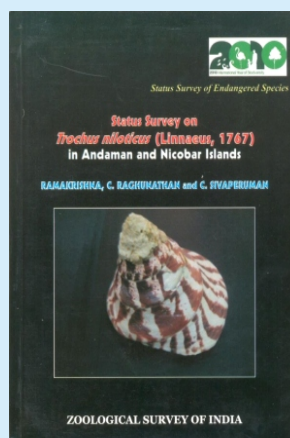
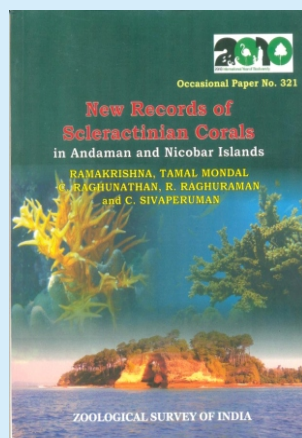
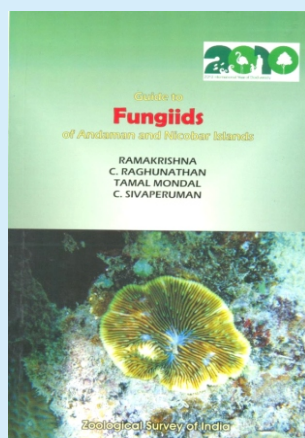
Four books were published.

Research manuscripts on the 'Status survey on the Corals of Andaman and Nicobar Islands' and 'New record of Polyclads in A&N Islands' have been submitted for publication.

As per the request of the Range Officer, Port Blair, the seized elephant tusks have been identified and a report submitted. A scientist of the Centre gave an exclusive interview on the activities and achievements of ZSI in Andaman and Nicobar Islands on 10th November to the *Doordhasan Television Channel* on request. Scientific staff of the Centre delivered lectures on 'Marine Ornamental Fishes of A&N Islands' at Central Agricultural Research Institute, ICAR, Port Blair on 19th November and 'Importance of Zoological Museum' to the secondary school students from different schools at Port Blair on their visit to ZSI regional museum on 27th November. A scientist of the Centre served as a Member in the Research Advisory Committee meeting of Dept. Of Environment and Forests, A&N Islands on 30th November.

Publications:

1. Ramakrishna, Raghunathan, C., Tamal Mondal, Sivaperuman, C., 2010. Guide to Fungiids of Andaman and Nicobar Islands:1-106, (Published by the Director, ZSI, Kolkata).
2. Ramakrishna, Raghunathan, C. and Sivaperuman, C., 2010. Status survey of *Trochus niloticus* (Linnaeus, 1767) in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. *Status Survey of Endangered Species Series*:1-80 (Published by the Director, ZSI, Kolkata).
3. Ramakrishna, Tamal Mondal, Raghunathan, C., Raghuraman, R. and Sivaperuman, C., 2010. New Record of Scleractinian Corals in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. *Records of Zoological Survey of India*, Occasional Paper No. 3211-144 Published by the Director, ZSI, Kolkata).
4. Rajan, P.T. 2010. Guide to Chaetodontidae (Butterfly Fishes) and Scaridae (Parrot Fishes) of Andaman and Nicobar Islands:1-94. (Published by the Director, ZSI, Kolkata).



Books published by ANRC/ZSI, Port Blair

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High Altitude Regional Centre, Solan

The faunal document on the Pangri Valley, Chamba district, Himachal Pradesh (a remote, practically unexplored area from faunal information point of view in the Himalayan Ecosystem), was compiled and made ready for publication. The document

comprises of information on 214 species under 7 faunal groups. The document is the first of its kind on the Pangri Valley. Two research Papers were published during the month and 2 research papers reviewed. A scientist of the Centre delivered a plenary

lecture in National Conference on “Environment Degradation and its impact on Mankind”, at the Punjabi University, Patiala, convened from 19th-20th November. Two scientists of the Centre attended the National Conference and delivered oral presentation. A team of delegates from Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla visited the Centre on 25th November and one of the scientists delivered a talk on his experience as a member of the expedition team to Antarctica. Two species of Rhopalocera (Lepidoptera) and seven species of Orthoptera were identified from

Churdhar and Kalatop Khajjiar Wildlife Sanctuaries.

Publications:

1. Charn Kumar, H. S. Rose and Avtar Kaur Sidhu (2010). Taxonomic notes on the genus *Flos* Doherty from Indian Himalayas (Lepidoptera: Papilionoidea: Lycaenidae). *Ann. Entomol.* 28 (1):13-19.
2. Charn Kumar, H. S. Rose and Avtar Kaur Sidhu (2010). Status of genus *Abisara* Felder and Felder (Lepidoptera: Riodinidae) in the Indian Himalayas with taxonomic notes on the species *A. fylla* (Westwood). *Biological Forum* 2(1): 12-13.



Oxyrrhypes obtusa



Vanessa cashmiriensis



Delegates from HP Univ. in HARC

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Sunderban Regional Centre, Canning

One local survey was conducted in Canning and Dabu on 27th and representative samples of fishes and gastropods obtained. 9 species of fishes (*Esculosa thoracota*; *Mugil cephalus*, *Liza vaigiensis*; *Terapon jarbua*, *Secutor insidiator*; *Kurtus indicus*,

Photoptoralis bindus, *Coilia dussumieri*, *Scatophagus argus*) and 5 species of Crabs (*Matuta planipes*, *Charybdis* (C) *rostrata*, *Ocypode cerapophthalma*, *Varuna litorata*, *Ocypode macrocere* were identified and registered.



Abundance of Gastropods at Canning



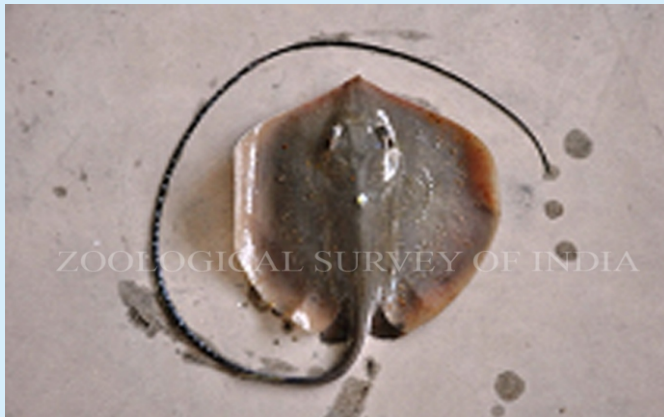
Ectoparasitic Isopod on *Setipinna tenuifilis*

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Marine Aquarium cum Regional Centre, Digha

The marine aquarium during the month was visited by an average of 275 visitors per day. 321 examples of freshwater and marine ornamental fishes were added for exhibition in the aquarium tanks. Among the exhibits, the major attractions were *Hymantura gerradi*, *Protonibea diacanthus* and *Silaginopsis panijus*. Under the Annual Plan of Research work, 49 examples of fishes and 12 examples of marine invertebrates (crustaceans and molluscs)

were collected through local surveys. A total 30 examples of fish specimens and 56 molluscan specimens from the old collections were identified and digitized. 16 examples of fishes were identified out of the recent collections. Apart from these research activities, two synopsis of Ph.D. thesis on Zoology and Environmental Sciences were received for evaluation. Four research papers were communicated.



Himantura gerradi



Nemipterus randelli



Priacanthus sp.



Protonibea diacanthus

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Northern Regional Centre, Dehra Dun

A field survey was undertaken in Dehra Dun and its environs and representative samples belonging to 8 different faunal groups were collected, besides observing 9 species of birds. Two local surveys in the Jhilmil Conservation Reserve were also undertaken. Preparation of a manuscript on Aves of Haryana State dealing with over 500 species is in progress.

Pertaining to the fauna of Kalesar National Park, manuscripts dealing with 49 species of mammals, 31 species of Reptilia and 47 species of soil nematodes have been submitted. Four species of Amphibia have been examined and registered. One research paper was published and one submitted. One research paper was reviewed and suitable comments offered.

The scientists of the Centre attended the Brain Storming Session on “Strategies for Conservation of Biodiversity in Uttarakhand” organized jointly by the Uttarakhand State Council for Science and Technology (UCOST), Dehradun in association with Doon University, Dehradun during the 5th Uttarakhand State Science and Technology Congress 2010 (USSTC- 10) (10th to 12th November 2010). A scientist of the Centre was invited to deliver a lead lecture on the “Soil Fauna in relation to Human Welfare”, and also act as one of the Judges for the session on Zoology of the Congress.

The Centre was actively engaged in the preparation of the Golden Jubilee functions and was also preparing for hosting a two days Half-yearly meeting of the Senior Officers at Dehra Dun.

Publication:

Tak, P. C. and Sati, J. P. 2010. Black-crested Bulbul (*Pycnonotus melanicterus*)- An addition to the avifauna of Kalesar National Park, District Yamunanagar, Haryana, India. *Newsletter for Birdwatchers*, 50 (1): 1-2.

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Western Ghat Regional Centre, Kozhikode (Calicut)

A survey for amphibian studies was conducted in the Kempholay forests, Gundia and Charmadi Ghats of Karnataka along with a team of amphibian experts, in search of “*Lost Amphibians*” on 16th and 17th November 2010.

Six new species of Hymenoptera (Insecta) under the genera, *Calotelea*, *Baeus*, *Duta* and *Calliscelio* have been identified. Besides, 4 species of Centipedes from Bhadra WLS, Karnataka, 1 species of Pteromalid (Hymenoptera) from Namdapha N.P. (Arunachal Pradesh) and 5 species of Odonata from Western Ghats were identified.

During the month, 2 research papers were published and 13 papers submitted for publication. Two advisory services were rendered to the higher secondary School students of Menmunda 'on the decline of common frogs in and around Menmunda, Vatakara, Kozhikode district, Kerala' and another for a Ph.D work on Amphibia.

One research paper received from *Current Science* on Reptilia was reviewed and comments offered.

Scientists of the Centre delivered three lectures to the students, teachers and general public, on “Herpetofauna of Western Ghats”

in the seminar on “Vertebrate Fauna of Western Ghats” Organized by the Department of Zoology, PSMO College, Thirurangadi jointly with the Western Ghat Regional Centre, ZSI, Calicut on 2nd November, on “Animal Diversity”, in a State level seminar on Biodiversity organized by Jeevana Charitable foundation at Kozhikode on 16th and on 'Biodiversity of Western Ghats' to the B.Sc. Zoology final year students of St. Thomas College, Ranni, Pathanamthitta, Kerala at the Museum of ZSI on 24th.

A scientist of the Centre attended a seminar on “Western Ghats Network of Protected Areas for Threatened Amphibians” at University of Delhi on 2nd and 3rd November, 2010.

Dr. Geraldine Veron and Dr. Andy Jennings from Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France, visited the Centre on 15th of the month, to study the skin sample of the Malabar Civet.

During the month, 646 visitors paid their visits to the museum. The Centre got equipped with a Scanning Electron Microscope, the *JEOL Neoscope Bench top (JCM-5000)*, during the month.

Publications:

1. P. M. Sureshan, 2010. Description of a new species of *Netomocera* Boucek (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea: Pteromalidae) from Arunachal Pradesh, India with a key to world species. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*: 2 (12): 1309-1312.
2. T. C. Narendran and P. M. Sureshan, 2010. A revision of *Neogasterichus* Narendran (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) with description of two new species and redefinition of the genus. *Hexapoda* 17(2): 107-112.



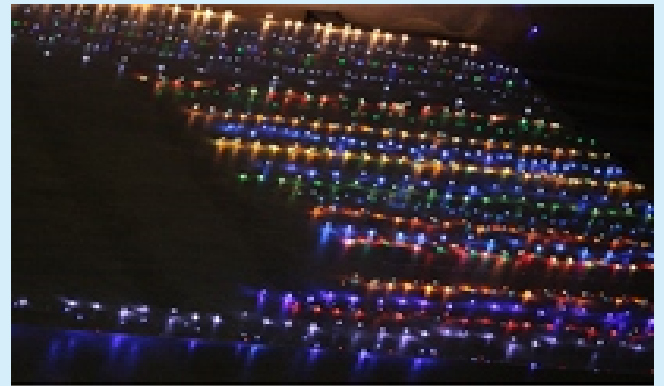
The Bench top Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM), installed in WGRC



An image taken using the SEM



Geraldine Veron and Andy Jennings, Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, at WGRC



Illumination in WGRC during Diwali, the Festival of Lights

ANIMAL OF THE MONTH

Stump Tailed Macaque

Macaca arctoides (Geoffroy, 1831)

[Text & Photo: North Eastern Regional Centre, Zoological Survey of India, Shillong]



The Stump Tailed Macaque, *Macaca arctoides* (Geoffroy, 1831) is found in north-eastern India, Myanmar, the Malay Peninsula, Thailand, Vietnam and south China.

They can reach up to a length of 70 cm, excluding the tail which grows up to 8 cm in length only. The tail is so short and hairless that it appears often absent. The animal weighs from 6 to 13 kg and may live as long as 30 years. It has a dark brown coat covered with fur. The face is devoid of hair and is mottled with varying amounts of black and red skin, hence sometimes called 'Red faced monkey'. Males are larger than the females. It feeds on fruits, seeds, leaves, insects, eggs, frogs, crabs, etc. Although it can climb trees it is generally terrestrial and lives in groups of 20 to 50. After a gestation period of 6 months, a single young is born. Caring of the infant is done by the group. The population of Stump-tailed macaques shows a declining trend. The main reasons are habitat destruction / fragmentation and hunting. In India it is critically threatened and is included in the Schedule II of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. This species is listed under Appendix II in Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and classified as Vulnerable (VU) on the IUCN Red List. (www.iucnredlist.org)

Further reading:

<http://www.iucnredlist.org/apps/redlist/details/12548/0>

<http://www.arkive.org/stump-tailed-macaque/macaca-arctoides/>

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Marine Biology Regional Centre, Zoological Survey of India, Chennai

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