

ZSI e-NEWS

The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of Zoological Survey of India

Volume - 03 :: Number - 11

November 2011

*ZSI in the 96th year of Service to the Nation
(1916 to 2011)*



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Headquarters, Kolkata

Extensive field surveys were undertaken in the States of Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha and a local survey in West Bengal. During the month, 4 species of Collembola, 3 species of Protozoa, 1 species of Acarina, 8 species of Coleoptera, 28 species of Hemiptera, 43 species of Hymenoptera, 14 species of Odonata, 9 species of Isoptera, 4 species of Orthoptera, 1 species of Crustacea, 16 species of Mollusca, 34 species of fresh water & marine fishes, 2 species of mammals and 13 species of Amphibia were identified from the States of Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Assam, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and as well from the south Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh and Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary of Tamil Nadu.

A species of Bush Frog (*Raorchestes* sp.) is being described as new to science and the Mudigere Skittering Frog (*Euphlyctis mudigere*) has been recorded for the first time from Andhra Pradesh. During the month, 4 research papers were published, 9 research papers were accepted and 11 research papers communicated.

Two alien species of freshwater fishes, *Pygocentrus nettereri* Kner and *Pangasianodon hypophthalmus* (Sauvage) have been recorded for the first time from West Bengal. The Red bellied Piranha and *Pygocentrus nettereri* Kner, has been noticed at Balurhat market, North Bengal and investigations have revealed that the species are cultured in ponds in the city and suburban areas.

Identification and advisory services were rendered on Lepidoptera, Mammalia, Amphibia and soil organisms to different Institutions and Organizations. The meat sample received from D.F.O., 24-Pgs., South Division of the D.F.O., Alipore, Kolkata, was identified as the meat of *Sus scrofa* Linnaeus. A

sample of animal horn received was confirmed as that of Wild Buffalo, *Bubalus bubalis* (Linnaeus). Skin of *Himantura* species (Fish) seized by the Wildlife Crime Branch, Kolkata has also been identified and report submitted.

Ms. Rina Mitra, Additional Director, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, Govt. of India, New Delhi visited various Divisions / Sections of the Headquarters on 4th November and discussed issues of Wildlife Crime and identification of Wildlife articles. A group of Post Graduate students & research scholars of the Department of Environmental Sciences, Bishop Heber College, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu, visited different Division/Sections of Headquarters on 21st November. Dr. Saibal Sengupta, Professor, Arya Vidyapeeth College, Guwahati, Assam, visited the Amphibia Section on 22nd November. Dr. M. Arunachalam, Professor and Head, Shri Paramakalyani Centre for Environmental Sciences, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Thirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, Dr. (Mrs.) Evarani Kalita of Dept. of Zoology, Handique Girl's College, Guwahati and Shri K. K. Bineesh, Research Scholar, Pelagic Fisheries Division, CMFRI, Kochi, Kerala, visited the fish section in connection with their research programmes, during the month.

Dr. Kaushik Deuti, Asst. Zoologist, attended a UGC sponsored national level seminar and also delivered a slide illustrated talk on the Amphibian Diversity of West Bengal at Kulti College, Kulti, Burdwan district, West Bengal. Dr. Sheela, S., Scientist-C, attended the field camp, as a field resource person, in a five days Workshop on "Orientation and Training in Field Ecological Studies and Biodiversity Documentation", organized by the Dep. of Zoology, West Bengal State University, Barasat, from 17th-19th November. Dr. Vikas Kumar, Scientist-C, attended the "Workshop on Molecular Phylogenetics" as a resource person from 1st-5th November, at the Center for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Dr. J. K. De, Scientist-D, attended a

meeting at the Vulture Conservation Breeding Centre, Raja Bhat in Buxa Tiger Reserve, West Bengal, on 11th November; further, on 16th November, he delivered a talk on the “Ganges River Dolphin species, its distribution and threats to its existence”, during a Teacher's Training Workshop at Loreto Day School, Sealdah.

Dr. K. Venkataraman, Director, ZSI, inaugurated and delivered a lecture in the UGC sponsored programme at Raja Manindra Chandra College, Cossipore, Kolkata, on 4th November. He held discussions with the officials at U.P.S.C., Dholpur House, New Delhi, in connection with the selection of Senior Administrative Officer in ZSI and attended the D.P.C. meeting at the Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi, on 21st November. Dr. K. Venkataraman delivered a lecture on Biodiversity in the Symposium on “Sustainable Management of Biodiversity using Science & Technology during Annual Session of NASI (National Academy of Science, India) on 24th November at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala and also attended the D.P.C. meeting at the Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi on 30th November, 2011.

Quami Ekta Week was observed from 19th to 25th November, 2011 and the Flag Day was observed on 25th November.



A newly discovered frog (*Raorchestes* sp.)

Publications:

1. Pratihari, S & Deuti, K. 2011. Distribution and threats of amphibian species in West Midnapore district, West Bengal, India. *frog leg* (Newsletter of the Amphibian Network of South Asia and Amphibian Specialist Group - South Asia), 17: 2-8.
2. Subramanian, K.A. (2011). An Analysis of Bird Illustrations of Fredinand Leucas Bauer and Insights on Early History of Indian Ornithology. In: Status of Indian Birds and their Conservation. Eds. Bhupathy, S., Anjan Kumar Prusty, Kumar, H.N., Jayaraj, R.S.C., Goldin Quadros., Pramod, P. Director, SACON, Coimbatore. Pp.100-102.
3. Tripathy, B. & R. Venkitesan (2011). A note on the first registered Mollusca in the National Zoological Collections at the Zoological Survey of India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 3(11): 22172220.
4. Hegde, V.D. & Roy, S. New record of Rolandi Browsing Frog *Sphaerotheca rolandae* (Dubois, 1983) (Dicroglossidae: Anura) from Uttar Pradesh, India. *frog leg* (Newsletter of the Amphibian Network of South Asia and Amphibian Specialist Group - South Asia), 17: 20-21.



An octopus species collected from Calicut, Kerala

Desert Regional Centre, Jodhpur

A survey party from the Centre proceeded to Kota, Rajasthan, for exploration of vertebrate faunal diversity of Chambal River. During the month, 5 genera of nematodes, 3 species of Odonata, 4 species of Lepidoptera and 3 species of Pisces were identified from various environs of Rajasthan. Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Scientist-C, Dr. Ram Sewak, Scientist-B and Ms. Shalini Vashistha attended the Capacity Building

Training Programme- "Hunting the Hunters", organized by the Rajasthan State Forest Department, Jodhpur & Tiger Trust (NGO), New Delhi, on 12th and 13th November. Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Scientist-C attended a meeting with Dr. T. S. Rathore, Director, AFRI, Jodhpur, in connection with the arrangement and preparation of programme schedule for the AFRI Training Programme scheduled for 30th November, 2011.



Long eared Hedgehog, *Hemiechinus collaris*



Black-winged Stilt, *Himantopus himantopus*



Eurasian Spoonbill, *Platalea leucordia*



Indian Roller, *Coracias benghalensis*



Monitor Lizard, *Varanus benghalensis*

Northern Regional Centre, Dehra Dun

Faunistic surveys were conducted in four districts of Punjab and representative fauna pertaining to 23 faunal groups collected besides observing 12 species of mammals and 86 species of birds. Forty six permanent slides of helminthes were prepared and measurements of 16 specimens completed. Slides of cross sections of hair samples of species of Lagomorpha: *Ochotona forresti*, *Ochotona roylei* and *Ochotona thibetana* Sikimaria were prepared for trichotaxonomic studies. Twenty data entries on nematodes and 30 on Lepidoptera were entered in the database. Twenty five species of Pisces were digitized and entries made. Two research papers on birds and helminths were reviewed and comments communicated. Shri P.T. Bhutia, Scientist-F and Officer-in-Charge, attended a meeting, as an expert member, for the Evaluation of Projects for UCOST.

Dr. A. N. Rizvi, Scientist-C delivered a lecture on "Molecular Taxonomy" to the BBT 1st year & M.Sc. I Sem. students on 26th November at the Dolphin (PG) Institute of Biomedical and Natural Sciences, Dehradun. Dr. Vinita Sharma,

Scientist-C presented a poster on "Nematode diversity in the Forest Ecosystem of Gujarat, India", in the National Symposium on Nematodes at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

31 students and two lecturers from Bhavan's Hazarimal Somani College, Mumbai and 13 M.Sc. Students from WII, Dehradun, visited the Museum and collection rooms of the Centre, while two students from IIT Kanpur and 10 students from SGRR, college, Dehradun, consulted the library of the Centre.



Ganeo tigrinum Mehra et Negi and
Pleurogenoides gastroporus (Luhe)
trematode parasites of Skittering frog,
Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis

Central Zone Regional Centre, Jabalpur

During the month, backlog collections of 9 species of Hemiptera, 11 species of Coleoptera, 5 species of Odonata and 17 species of moths (Lepidoptera) from Veerangana Durgawati Wildlife Sanctuary and 6 species of moths (Lepidoptera) from Singhori Wildlife Sanctuary were identified and registered. Dr. S. Sambath, Scientist-C delivered an invited Lecture on "Care and Techniques of preservation of animals in Museum" to the 20 students of M.Sc (Zoology), Dept of Zoology and Biotechnology, Govt. Science College, Jabalpur, on 11th November. Dr. S.S. Talmale, Assistant Zoologist attended a training course on "Small Mammal Field Techniques" held at the College

of Forestry, Kerala Agricultural University, Mannuthy, Thrissur, Kerala, from 10th-14th November. Twenty-Five students of the Premwati College of Education, Jabalpur, visited the museum on 25th of the month and they were briefed about the activities of ZSI.

Publication:

Patil, Sachin R. 2011. Spiders of the States of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh (Arachnida: Araneae): Updated checklist 2011, *The Indian Forester*, 137, (10):1217-1224.

*Dysdercus koenigii* (Fabricius)*Notobitus meleagris* (Fabricius)*Physopelta gutta* (Burmeister)

High Altitude Regional Centre, Solan

During the month, 7 species of butterflies were identified from the collections of Kalatop-Khajjiar WLS, Chamba district. Five research papers were published. Dr. Indu Sharma, Scientist-C, attended the Working Group Meeting of the State Climate Change Centre, Government of Himachal Pradesh on 14th November at Shimla and made a presentation on Biodiversity of Himalayan Ecosystem. Dr. Anil Kumar, Scientist-C participated in the first International Conference on Indian Ornithology (ICIO-2011), from 19th-23rd November, at SACON, Coimbatore, and presented a research paper "Songs and calls of the Indian birds: Implications for behavioural studies, systematics and conservation". Shri Uttam Saikia, Senior Zoological Assistant attended a workshop on "Small Mammal Field Techniques" at the College of Forestry, Kerala Agricultural University, Mannuthy, Thrissur, Kerala, from 10th-14th November.

Publications:

1. Charn Kumar, Avtar Kaur Sidhu and H. S. Rose (2011) Status of subfamily Poritinae (Lycaenidae) in Indian Himalayas with taxonomic notes on type-species, *Poritia hewitsonii* Moore. *The Indian Forester* 137 (10): 1194-1196.
2. Kumar, A. (2010). Occurrence of two critically endangered species of *Gyps* vultures in D'Ering Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary and adjacent areas, Arunachal Pradesh, India.

Burkut, 19(1&2): 101-107. (Published in Nov. 2011)

3. Kumar, A. (2011). Songs and calls of the Indian birds: Implications for behavioural studies, systematics and conservation, pp. 97-99. In *Status of Indian Birds and their Conservation*, Proceedings of the first International Conference on Indian Ornithology, Bhupathy S., Prusty B.A.K., Kumara H.N., Jayaraj R.S.C., Quadros G. and Pramod P., (Eds.), SACON, Coimbatore, India, 19-23 Nov. 2011, 301 pp.
4. Kumar, A. (2011). Mammals of Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh, India. *J. Env. Bio-sci*, 25(2): 205-207.
5. Sharma, Indu, Dhanze, R., Kondal, A. and Dhiman, R (2011) Seasonal abundances and diversity of plankton of Banner Stream, River Beas, Himachal Pradesh, *J. Env. Bio-Sci*, 25 (2) 279-284.

*Barilius bendelisis* (Hamilton-Buchanan)

Gangetic Plains Regional Centre, Patna

A research paper on a new freshwater species of *Neorhynchoplax* Sakai, 1938 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Hymenosomatidae) was published. During the month, two species of Noctuidae: Lepidoptera and seven species of Mollusca were identified. A survey party of the Centre proceeded on a field survey from 27th November to different localities of Jharkhand, especially the Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary. Dr. Gopal Sharma, Scientist-C and Officer-in-Charge, delivered a lecture on the current status and conservation strategies of Gangetic River

Dolphin, *Platanista gangetica gangetica* in a INSPIRE Internship programme for 10+2 students of Bihar at Darbhanga on 6th November. Over 37 students from different schools visited the museum.

Publication:

Peter K. L. Ng, Hasko F. Neseemann & Sharma, G. 2011. A new freshwater species of *Neorhynchoplax* Sakai, 1938 (Crustacea: Decapoda: Hymenosomatidae) from Patna, Bihar, India. *Zootaxa* 3063: 5363 (2011) Magnolia Press www.mapress.com/zootaxa

Marine Aquarium cum Regional Centre, Digha

The World Bank Implementation & Support Mission team visited the Centre during the month to review the progress made at the Centre under the ICZM Project. Two hundred and eighty nine examples of live marine ornamental exhibits were collected for exhibition in the aquarium during the month. The major attractions among the aquarium exhibits during the month were Dragger-tooth pike conger *Muraenesux cinereus*, Sharpnose stingray *Hymantura gerrardi*, a school of Concertina fish *Drapene longimana*, Orange-spotted grouper *Epinephelus coioides* and tang fish *Zebrasoma desjardinii*. The aquarium received an average of 170 tourists per day during the month. Under the identification &

digitization, 528 specimens were processed during the month. The significant research achievement of the month was the discovery of *Acropoma argentistigma* from Digha area which is the first report from Indian waters and the information was communicated to the journal of Marine Biodiversity Records. Dr. Prasanna Yennawar, Scientist-C and Officer-in-Charge, participated in the Audit & Procurement committee meeting on 9th November. He also made a presentation on the activities of the Centre during the 2nd Joint Implementation & Support Mission, on 14th November, at the Institute of Environmental Studies and Wetland Management, Kolkata.



A view of the Aquarium



A view of the interpretation gallery

*Acropoma argentistigma**Pomacanthus imperator*

Sunderban Regional Centre, Canning

During the month, 4 species of Orthoptera (Insecta) were identified and registered. Dr. D. Suresh Chand, Scientist-C and Officer-in-Charge, took part in the Stakeholder's workshop for up-scaling of Technologies under

NAIP for enhancing the productivity of degraded coastal land, at Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, (ICAR) Regional Research Station, Canning, on 11th November.

Estuarine Biology Regional Centre, Gopalpur-on-Sea

A field survey was conducted at Purushottampur and Polasara areas of Ganjam district, Odisha, for collection of mosquitoes and identified 12 species *Anopheles*. During the month, 6 species of molluscs from the collection of the Pennera Estuary, Andhra Pradesh were identified. Interesting observations were made on the behaviour of the Orange-spotted Grouper (*Epinephelus coioides*), a species that has been assessed as Near Threatened (NT) by the IUCN.

A hermit crab in a dead shell of *Pugilina cochlidium*

Pinnate Murex (Dorsal and Ventral views)

Orange-spotted Grouper, *Epinephelus coioides*

Arunachal Pradesh Regional Centre, Itanagar

Fifteen identified avian specimens including Kaleej Pheasant *Lophura leucomelanos*, Small Pratincole *Glareola lacteal*, Ward's Trogon *Harpactes wardi* and Stripe-throated Yuhina *Yuhina gularis* were digitized and metadata compiled during the month. Dr. Gopinathan Maheswaran, Scientist-C and Officer-in-Charge, participated in the International Conference on Indian Ornithology (ICIO), held at Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), Coimbatore, from 20th-23rd November, 2011 and presented a paper. Dr. Bikramjit Sinha, Scientist-C, attended the inaugural meeting of the IV NEBInet

Coordinator's on 10th November, at North Eastern Regional Institute of Science & Technology, Nirjuli. Eighteen school children visited the museum and library during the month.

Publication:

Maheswaran, G. 2011. Status and conservation of threatened birds of Arunachal Pradesh. In Proceedings of the First International Conference on Indian Ornithology, 19-23, November 2011. Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, India. 301pp.



Beautiful Sibia



Stripe-throated Yuhina, *Yuhina gularis*



Ward's Trogon, *Harpactes wardi*



Small Pratincole

North Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong

During the month, 2 species of amphibians and 4 species of fishes were identified out of the material collected from the Keibul Lamjao National Park and its adjoining areas in Manipur. Three species of amphibians, 1 species of fish, 2 species of coleopterans and 3 species of hemipterans were identified from the backlog collection of the Centre. A local survey was conducted in Mawlyngot area, East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya, on the 9th November. Five examples of amphibian type specimens

were received as donation from Mr. J. Purkayastha, Research Scholar, Guwahati University, Guwahati. Dr. D. Khyndriam, Asst. zoologist attended the Inaugural function of the State Level Congress of the 19th National Children's Science Congress, organized by the State Council of Science, Technology and Environment (SCSTE) on 3rd November at Bharat Scouts and Guides Headquarters, Meghalaya, Shillong.

Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair

The marine ecosystem of Wall, Inglis, Henry Lawrence, John Lawrence, South Button, Outram, Nicolson and Wilson Islands in Ritchie's Archipelago; Jolly Buoy, Red Skin and Tarmugli Islands in Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park and the terrestrial ecosystem in the outskirts of Port Blair, and Great Nicobar Island were surveyed during 14th-26th November. As a result of the surveys, 66 species of scleractinian corals, 50 species of echinoderms, 28 species of nudibranchs, 1 species of polyclad, 64 species of gastropods, 4 species of bivalves and 45 species of fishes from marine ecosystem, 2 species of butterflies, 6 species of odonates, 55 species of birds from terrestrial counterpart were identified/ observed while 7 species of fishes were identified from the freshwater environment. Thirty three troupes of long tailed macaque *Macaca fascicularis umbrosa*, with a population of 1035 individuals have been encountered in Great Nicobar Island.

Sixty two specimens of corals, 38 specimens of gastropods, 42 specimens of nudibranchs, 1 specimen of polyclad and 13 specimens of shrimps were registered in the National Zoological Collection of the Centre. A manuscript on the Poisonous and Venomous

Marine Invertebrates of India has been submitted for publication. Three species of sponges and 2 species of soft corals were identified for the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Port Blair, on request. Shri Tamal Mondal, JRF, attended the 4th UGC-Networking Resource Centre Workshop on Molecular Phylogenetics at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, during 1st-5th November. Dr. C. Sivaperuman attended the Institutional Ethics Committee (IAEC) meeting at Central Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair, on 16th November. Dr. C. Raghunathan, Scientist-C & Officer-in-Charge served as a member in the interview committee for the selection of Data Enumerator at Fishery Survey of India, Port Blair, on 21st November and served as a member to discuss the progress on setting up Oceanarium in A&N Islands held at the Directorate of Tourism, Andaman and Nicobar Administration on 23rd November.

Publication:

Tamal Mondal, C. Raghunathan and Ramakrishna. 2011. New recruitment of scleractinian corals in Little Andaman Island after tsunami. *Indian Journal of Geo-Marine Science*, 40(5): 653-656.



Little Green Heron, *Butorides striatus* Linnaeus



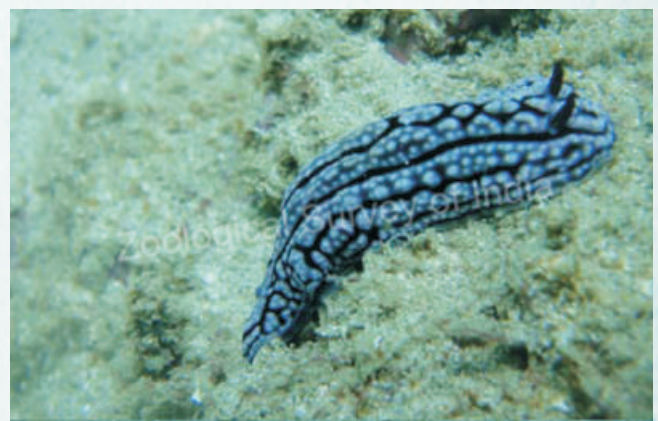
Pacific Reef Egret, *Egretta sacra* Gmelin



Nudibranch, *Halgerda bacalusia*



Nudibranch, *Phyllidia ocellata*



Nudibranch, *Phyllidiella zeylanica*

Western Regional Centre, Pune

A faunistic survey tour to Phansad Wildlife Sanctuary was conducted during the month. Two species of Collembola, 12 species of Odonata, 10 species of Amphibia, 15 species of freshwater fishes and 17 species of mollusca were identified. Three identification and advisory services were rendered on fishes, birds and water organisms. A thesis received

for evaluation was evaluated. Twenty nine chapters of invertebrates received from various authors for the 'Fauna of Maharashtra' were submitted for publication. Nine chapters on the fauna of Radhanagri Wildlife Sanctuary and 12 chapters pertaining to Chandoli National Park were submitted.

*Diplacodes trivialis* (Rambur)*Echis carinatus* Schneider

Marine Biology Regional Centre, Chennai

During the month, 7 species each of sea grass associated Foraminifera and Rhizopods, 4 species of Protozoans, 7 species of Sponges, 1 species of Cnidaria, 9 species of Mollusca, 6 species of Echinoderms and 14 species of marine fishes were identified out of the material collected from the Palkbay and the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve. Fifty three identified species were digitized and metadata compiled during the month. Dr. C. Venkatraman, Scientist-C & Officer-in-Charge attended and presented 3 papers in the International conference on Indian Ornithology (ICIO-2011) organized by the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore from 19th-23rd November and attended the Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC) meeting at GLR laboratories Pvt. Ltd., Madhavaram, as a scientific member. Dr. C. Venkatraman and Dr. Rajkumar Rajan, Scientist-C, supervised the research projects of JRF's of the Centre. Four hundred and ten students and tourists visited the marine aquarium. Three research papers were published and one research paper accepted during the month.

Publications:

1. Venkatraman, C. 2011. Habitat preference of birds in Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, Southern Western Ghats. In: Bhupathy S, Prusty, B A K, Kumara, H N,

Jayaraj RSC, Quadros G and Pramod P. (Eds) Status of Indian birds and their conservation. Proceedings of the first international conference on Indian Ornithology, 19-23 November, 2011. Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, India. Pp 288.

2. Venkatraman, C, C. Raghunathan and G. Sivaleela. 2011. Lagoon use by birds in Pulicat Lake, South East-coast of India. In: Bhupathy S, Prusty, B A K, Kumara, H N, Jayaraj RSC, Quadros G and Pramod P. (Eds) Status of Indian birds and their conservation. Proceedings of the first international conference on Indian Ornithology, 19-23 November, 2011. Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, India. Pp 298.
3. Jisha Kurian and C. Venkatraman. 2011. Status and distribution of threatened wetland birds in the Kachchh district of Gujarat. In: Bhupathy S, Prusty, B A K, Kumara, H N, Jayaraj RSC, Quadros G and Pramod P. (Eds) Status of Indian birds and their conservation. Proceedings of the first international conference on Indian Ornithology, 19-23 November, 2011. Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, India. Pp 128-129.

*Charybdis natator**Dorippe frascone**Haustellum haustellum*Cochin banded Sea snake, *Hydrophis ornatus*

Southern Regional Centre, Chennai

One local survey to Pallikaranai Marsh was undertaken to photograph the insects of the marsh. Identifications for the month include the following groups from southern Eastern Ghats viz. Rotifera: 5 spp., Cladocera: 7 spp., Lepidoptera: 12 spp., general Insecta: 12 species of various orders and Fishes: 13 spp. Further, 8 marine fish species were identified. Preparation of the report on the fauna of Pallikaranai marsh is in progress. Five papers were submitted for publication. Two identification services were rendered. Digitalization work of Fish Register, Amphibians, Reptiles, Type Specimens of the Centre and the published scientific papers was

continued. Dr. K. Ilango, Scientist-D, as a member, attended the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Entomological Academy of India on 23rd November. He also delivered a lecture on the principles of taxonomy and on collection, preservation & identification of animals to students of Rosary Matriculation School, Chennai. Dr Jayasree Thilak, Scientist-C, attended the "All India Rajbhasha Sammelan and Workshop on Scientific & Technical Terminology", conducted by CENTAD, Bangalore, at Kodaikanal from 17th-18th November.

Freshwater Biology Regional Centre, Hyderabad

Local field visits for documenting seasonal variability of the heterogeneous zooplankton community and macrophyte-based littoral faunae were continued on perennial lakes, irrigation tanks, ponds and transient pools in and around Hyderabad. During the month, 7 species of Rotifera, 8 species of Cladocera and 9 species of fishes were identified. Identification of the rotifer and cladoceran components as well as the aquatic insect components of Cumbum Lake, Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh and reservoir fish faunal collection from Krishnaraja Sagar, Mandya District, Karnataka, were taken up. Nine species of freshwater fishes and 7 spp. of Freshwater Rotifera were digitized. Besides, data entry of 19 spp. of fauna of freshwater ecosystem was made. Dr. S.Z. Siddiqi, Scientist-D and Officer-in-Charge, attended the seminar 'Water chemistry Automation & TOC/TN Analysis', organized by the by SKALAR Analytical India

Pvt. Ltd., Chennai, at Hyderabad on 8th November. Further, he also attended the 'XIth Conference of Parties Convention on Biological Diversity, Hyderabad, India on Strengthening Implementation of Biodiversity Act, Access and Benefit sharing', on 11th November, organized by MoEF, NBA Biodiversity Project by A.P State Board for Biodiversity.



Rotaria neptunia
(Ehrenberg)

Filinia pejeri
Hutchinson

Western Ghat Regional Centre, Kozhikode (Calicut)

Three new species of Hymenoptera (*Cephaleta elongata*, *Odontoscielio vikata* and *Trissolcus jatrophae*) of the families Pteromalidae and Platygastriidae were described. *Mesopeltita truncatipennis* (Waterston) (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea: Pteromalidae) has been recorded for the first time from the Oriental Region. The new species of platygastriid, *Odontoscielio vikata*, turned out to be the first species under the genus *Odontoscielio*, to be described from India. Nine papers were published and three papers communicated.

Four field surveys were carried out during the month. Six identification and advisory services were rendered. Five identified species were digitized and metadata compiled.

Dr. Muhamed Jafer Palot, Asst. Zoologist and Dr. P. M. Sureshan, Scientist-C delivered talks on various aspects of Biodiversity and its

conservation to eco club students of Calicut district at Ramakrishna Mission School, Calicut and the students of Kunnammangalam Higher Secondary School, on 11th and 22nd of the month, respectively.

Dr. Muhamed Jafer Palot, Asst. Zoologist attended the First International Conference on Indian Ornithology at the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, from 19th-21st November, organized by Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore.

Dr. P. M. Sureshan, Scientist-C, supervised the research project of a JRF of the Centre. Dr. K. Rajmohana, Scientist-C, supervised the research projects of the two JRFs of the Centre as well as 2 M. Sc. students from Kannur University, attached to the Centre, for their project work.

Shri Bijoy, C., JRF, participated in the annual Congress 2011, organized by PGIA, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and presented a paper entitled "Hymenopteran egg parasitoids in organic and conventional paddy farms: a comparative study from south India". Shri Bijoy received the best presentation award during the Congress.

During the month, 891 visitors paid their visits to the museum.

Publications:

1. P. M. Sureshan, B. Dhanya, C. Bijoy and A. Ramesh Kumar. 2011. A review of the Oriental Eunotinae (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea: Pteromalidae) with the description of a new *Cephaleta* and first record of *Mesopeltita truncatipennis* (Waterston) from the region. *Hexapoda*: 18(2): 93-105.
2. K. Rajmohana, T. C. Narendran and T. Manoharan 2011. A new species of *Trissolcus* (Hymenoptera: Platygasteridae) egg parasitoid of *Scutellera nobilis* Fabricius (Hemiptera: Scutelleridae) on *Jatropha curcas* Linnaeus (Euphorbiaceae) in India. *Hexapoda*, 18(2):106-110.
3. Rajmohana, K. 2011. 'Addressing the taxonomic component in Ecosystem restoration Programs', in Contribution of ecosystem Restoration to the objectives of the CBD and a healthy people. *CBD Technical Series No. 62*. Pg. 91-92.
<http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-62-en.pdf>
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NEW DISCOVERIES
(New species of Hymenoptera: Insecta)



Cephaleta elongata Insecta: Hymenoptera: Pteromalidae



Odontoscelio vikata Insecta: Hymenoptera: Platygasteridae



Trissolcus jatrophae Insecta: Hymenoptera: Platygasteridae

New Record to the Oriental Region



Mesopeltita truncatipennis (Waterston)
Insecta: Hymenoptera: Pteromalidae

CHECK LIST OF FAUNA OF INDIA

Marine wood borers

<http://zsi.gov.in/checklist/Marine%20Wood%20borers.pdf>

HANDOUT ON SCHEDULE MOLLUSCA

(Prepared by Dr. Basudev Tripathy, Scientist-C, Mollusca Section, ZSI, Kolkata)

[Please zoom to read]



**Ministry of Environment & Forests,
Government of India**

Protected Species of Mollusca

Unrestricted and indiscriminate practices of hunting, poaching and harvesting of animal resources have led to the extinction as well as endangering of many molluscs in the wild. The main focus is on the protection of 'vulnerable' animals for subsistence living in the ancient period to the 'current-level' over-exploitation of living fauna for consumption and trade has been one of the major factors responsible for the large scale extinction and 'conservation' is not on a broad but very few scale.

India is being increasingly rich and cheap in terms of its wildlife diversity. Several marine species are exploited on a large scale for their commercial values. The overexploitation of many targeted marine organisms is a cause of concern to the endangered status in their natural habitat environments. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides a legal provision for the protection of wild animals. Molluscs and plants, however, may not enjoy their subsistence and popularity in nature but also are ecological and environmental equality of the country. CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna) is a law having statutory measures to protect several marine species for protection of international trade.

Zoological Survey of India Kolkata

Scientific Name	Common Name	Listed in CITES	Distribution	Scientific Name	Common Name	Listed in CITES	Distribution
	<i>Cypraea lineata</i> Linnaeus	No	Coastal waters of India		<i>Strombus gigas</i> Linnaeus	No	Coastal waters of India
	<i>Tridacna</i> (Extinct)	No	Coastal waters of India		<i>Strombus</i> (Extinct)	No	Coastal waters of India
	<i>Tridacna</i> (Extinct)	No	Coastal waters of India		<i>Strombus</i> (Extinct)	No	Coastal waters of India
	<i>Tridacna</i> (Extinct)	No	Coastal waters of India		<i>Strombus</i> (Extinct)	No	Coastal waters of India
	<i>Tridacna</i> (Extinct)	No	Coastal waters of India		<i>Strombus</i> (Extinct)	No	Coastal waters of India
	<i>Tridacna</i> (Extinct)	No	Coastal waters of India		<i>Strombus</i> (Extinct)	No	Coastal waters of India
	<i>Tridacna</i> (Extinct)	No	Coastal waters of India		<i>Strombus</i> (Extinct)	No	Coastal waters of India
	<i>Tridacna</i> (Extinct)	No	Coastal waters of India		<i>Strombus</i> (Extinct)	No	Coastal waters of India
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	<i>Tridacna</i> (Extinct)	No	Coastal waters of India		<i>Strombus</i> (Extinct)	No	Coastal waters of India
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	<i>Tridacna</i> (Extinct)	No	Coastal waters of India		<i>Strombus</i> (Extinct)	No	Coastal waters of India
	<i>Tridacna</i> (Extinct)	No	Coastal waters of India		<i>Strombus</i> (Extinct)	No	Coastal waters of India

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**Don't buy Protected Freshells,
It is a punishable offence,
Help Save them**

ANIMAL OF THE MONTH

The Malabar Raven
Papilio dravidarum Wood-Mason



[Text and Photo: Muhamed Jafer Palot, Western Ghat Regional Centre, ZSI, Calicut]

The Malabar Raven, *Papilio dravidarum* Wood-Mason, is a species of Swallowtail butterfly (family Papilionidae) with a wing span of 8-12cm. The species is endemic to Western Ghats, south of Goa. This butterfly frequents thick forests of the Western Ghats at an elevation between 100 to 1000m. The flight period is from March to October. Both the sexes are similar and are mimics of the Common Crow, *Euploea core*, and the Common Mime, *Chilasa clytia* (form *clytia*). The Malabar Raven is distinguished from other similar looking species by a small white spot at the end of the cell in the forewing and also by a discal series of arrow shaped white spots on the hindwing. The Malabar Raven resembles the Common Crow in habits and flight, but is faster than the other mimic, the Common Mime. It prefers shady patches. The males drink at wet patches especially in the hot dry pre-monsoon days. The known larval food plants of the species are *Glycosmis pentaphylla* and *Clausena heptaphylla* of the family Rutaceae.

ZSI IN NEWS

[Please zoom to read]

Bhimashankar home to 529 animal species

Dipannita Das | TNN

Pune: The Bhimashankar wildlife sanctuary in Pune district harbours 529 species of animals, a study conducted by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) revealed. Out of the 79 endemic species of birds in the Indian region, 19 are found here.

Out of the 330 species of butterflies recorded from Western Ghats (Gujarat, Goa, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala), 213 are in Maharashtra and, of which, 65 are found in this sanctuary. The presence of Atlas moth is noteworthy, as it the largest moth in the country, states the study.

The Bhimashankar grove and the Ahupe grove are among the best sacred groves in the northern Western Ghats.

The 130-sq km Bhimashankar sanctuary has been identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by the Bird Life International. The birds found here includes red spurfowl, grey junglefowl, Nilgiri wood-pigeon, grey-fronted green pigeon, Malabar parakeet, mottled wood owl, Malabar grey hornbill, white-cheeked barbet, Malabar crested lark, White-bellied blue flycatcher, Indian rufous babbler, Indian yellow tit and Nilgiri flowerpecker.

R M Sharma, deputy director, ZSI Pune, told TOI that there many more species that can be brought to light. These are hidden treasures to academicians, students and, researchers.



when it spreads its wings. The mouth parts of the adult moth are not developed for feeding and it never eats anything. The caterpillar grows and eats voraciously. This energy stored during feeding period is enough for adulthood.

Sharma, who has extensively studied butterflies, said that the unique butterflies found in the sanctuary included red helen, large size blue mormon, common jezebel, great orange tip, white orange tip, common bush brown, common four-ring, baronet, some pansies, different tigers and plumjudy.

Bhimashankar sanctuary houses 14 sacred groves. The sacred groves are ecologically important, as they contain traces of the original species of the specific region and gene pool of rare and endemic species. This sanctuary is also home to endangered Indian Giant Squirrel (the state animal), facing threats from habitat loss and pilgrimage tourism, Sharma said.

There is a need for minimising human interference inside the sanctuary, Sharma said, and added that, there are anthropogenic pressure in the area, like illegal encroachment, felling of trees, tourism, among others.

Sharma suggested that the hospitality industry should be restricted to outside the sanctuary. The damage done to the environment and the fragile ecosystem can be reduced by taking regulatory measures, he added.

FINDINGS OF ZSI

► Mammals: 66 species

► Birds: 236 species

► Reptiles: 54 species

► Amphibians: 9 species

► Fish: 21 species

► Molluscs: 19 species

► Scorpions: 6 species

► Centipede: 9 species

► Micro-organisms in water: 15 species

► Odonata: 24 species

► Praying mantis: 5 species

► Butterflies: 65 species

► Bhimashankar is also home to leopard, jungle cat, jackal, Indian fox, hyena, sambar, barking deer, wild boar, common langur, bonnet macaque and small Indian mongoose

► Fish specie like parapsilornchus elongatus is endemic to this sanctuary

► The largest moth in the country is found here

The survey provides a base line data for further studies.

The Atlas moth, also known as non-mulberry moth, measures up to 33 cm,

OUT OF THE BOX

Climate change downsizing fauna, flora: Study

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hwJYwep8pSe3GdhKLco9-cGyo2wQ?docId=CNG.624cd6ab830f92b67a7ebaa85282722d.1d1>

Dinosaurs were migrating like birds: Study

<http://www.flashnewstoday.com/index.php/dinosaurs-were-migrating-like-birds>

The Unexpected Beauty of Coral Crustaceans: Photos

<http://news.discovery.com/earth/coral-crabs-diversity-photos-111104.html#mkcpgn=emnws1>

PAINTINGS FROM ZSI HERITAGE ALBUM



Lion tailed macaque
Macaca silenus (Linnaeus, 1758)

ANNOUNCEMENT

**National level Hands-on Training Workshop on Principles and Practices of Animal Taxonomy with special reference to Insects
(For postgraduates and young researchers)**

27th February to 3rd March, 2012

at

Zoological Survey of India, Western Ghat Regional Centre,
P.O. Eranhipalam, Calicut-673006, Kerala

A one week National Level Hands-on Training Workshop on Principles and Practices of Animal Taxonomy with special reference to Insects will be organized by the Zoological Survey of India, Western Ghat Regional Centre, Calicut, Kerala, to educate and popularize Animal Taxonomy the science of discovering, naming and classifying animals. This residential workshop is open to postgraduates and young researchers and will impart hands-on training in standard techniques and procedures involved in Insect Taxonomy.

For details please visit http://zsi.gov.in/right_menu/29.11.11/ZSI/Index.html