

ZSI e-NEWS

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*ZSI in the 97th year of Service to the Nation
(1916 to 2012)*



ZSI e-NEWS

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Headquarters, Kolkata

An extensive field survey was undertaken in the State of Himachal Pradesh. During the month, the scientists of Headquarters identified, 7 species of Protozoa, 1 species of Platyhelminthes, 1 species of Nematelminthes, 4 species of Collembola, 24 species of Hemiptera, 18 species of Hymenoptera, 10 species of Odonata, 5 species of Orthoptera, 12 species of Coleoptera, 11 species of Isoptera, 10 species of Arachnida, 6 species of Crustacea, 26 species of Mollusca, 18 species of fishes, 8 species of Amphibia and 2 species of mammals from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Pondicherry, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Lakshadweep, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Tamil Nadu (Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary, South Eastern Ghats).

Two new species belonging to the Sisorid genus *Glyptothorax* have been discovered and described. The species *Oreumenoides edwardsii* (de Saussure) (Hymenoptera: Vespidae: Eumeninae) has been newly recorded from Sunderbans Biosphere Reserve and also from Delhi, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and the Union territory of Pondicherry. *Heteroconger tomlia* Castle and Randall, 1999 has been recorded for the first time from Indian Ocean and *Bathymyrus echinorhynchus* Alcock recorded for the first time from Tamil Nadu coast.

During the month, 5 research papers were published, 5 were accepted and 9 communicated.

Identification and advisory services were rendered on 15 lots of specimens, received from different Institutions and Organizations. A. Regupathy, Consultant (Insecticide - Toxicology), formerly Prof. & Head, Dept. of

Agric. Entomology, Dean, Agricultural College & Research Institute, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, Agricultural University, Coimbatore, was provided with information on Orthopteran pest species. Five specimens of rodents were identified as *Rattus rattus* (Linnaeus), received from Ajanta Birah, Sr. Scientist I.C.A.R., Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Confiscated marine molluscan shells were identified for the Regional Deputy Director of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (NR), New Delhi.

Dr. James Cresswell and Ms. Barbara Smith of the University of Exeter, U.K, visited different Divisions / Sections of Headquarters on 24th April.

Miss Swagata Mondal of Zoology Department, Calcutta University visited the Nematelminthes Section for identification of specimens. Mr. Sandeep Khuswaha, Zoological Assistant, CZRC, Jabalpur visited the Hemiptera Section for specimen identification.

Dr. G. P. Mandal, Scientist-C, attended, as an official delegate, the Workshop & Seminar on Ecology at University of Calcutta, from 19th-21st April, organized by the Calcutta University & the Zoological Society, Kolkata.

Dr. K. A. Subramanian, Scientist-C, Catalogued and Computerized details including Morphometry of 1208 bird specimens of Family: Picnonotidae and Genus: *Garrulax* (Family: Muscicapidae) with the help of postgraduate students of West Bengal State University, Barasat, Kolkata. He created the GIS data base on Western Ghats Odonata comprising of 5328 records of 180 species. The work was collaboratively done with the WGRC, ZSI, Kozhikode (Calicut). He has edited 4 manuscripts for the *Journal of Threatened Taxa* and one manuscript for the Publication Division, ZSI. He represented ZSI and gave a presentation on the role of ZSI in National

Green Accounting on 16th April at the Indian Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi.

Shri K. C. Gopi, Scientist-E and Head of Fish Division and Shri S. S. Mishra, Scientist-B of Marine Fish Section along with Director, ZSI attended the Regional Workshop on "Expert Consultation on Academic Partnership for Excellence and Networks in Fisheries Education and Research", organized by the Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Kolkata Centre, at Science City, Kolkata.

Dr. Animesh Bal, Scientist- F along with Director, ZSI, attended a meeting, in connection with the bi-centenary celebration of Department of Indian Museum scheduled to be held in the month of February, 2014. The Director of Indian Museum and the members of the Indian Museum Trustee Board were present and the meeting was chaired by Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, Shri M. K. Narayanan on 23rd April, 2012.

Dr. K. Venkataraman, Director, ZSI, in connection with holding discussion on CoP-11 with Chairman, NBA visited Chennai on 5th and 6th April, 2012. He attended the 1st Consultation meeting to discuss the targets of National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) held at New Delhi (ICAR Conference hall) on 9th April, 2012. Dr. K. Venkataraman presided over the Executive Body Meeting of Zoological Society, Kolkata on 10th April. He attended a Workshop on "Coastal & Marine Biodiversity: Gaps, Challenges and opportunities" held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 12th and 13th April, 2012.

On the occasion of 121st Birth Anniversary of Baba Saheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, a function was organized by the Akhil Bharat Anusuchit Jati Parishad, Kolkata, on 20th April, 2012 at ZSI Headquarters which was presided over by Dr.

K. Venkataraman. Prof. Debi Chatterjee, J.U. (International Relations), Kolkata was the Chief Guest. As a Special Guest Dr. S. K. Naskar, former Deputy Director, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and Castes, Kolkata, graced the occasion.

Dr. K. Venkataraman, gave a talk on "Emerging Trends in Ecological Analysis" at a Seminar of Zoological Society, Kolkata on 21st April, attended the meeting for the run-up Bi-Centenary (2014) celebration of the Indian Museum and as well attended the seminar at Science City Auditorium, Kolkata, organized by the Central Institute of Fisheries Education on 23rd April, as a guest speaker.

Publications:

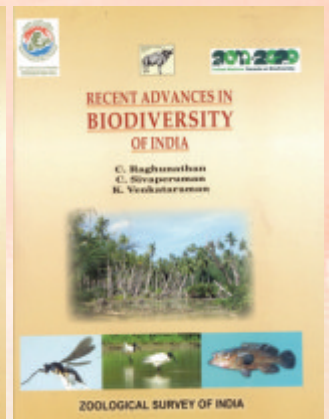
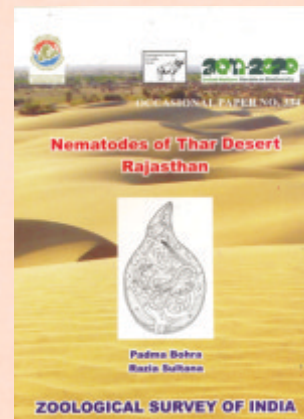
1. Chandra, K. and Gupta, D. 2011. Cetoniine beetles (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Cetoniinae) of Madhya Pradesh with distributional records and male genitalic studies. *Annals of Forestry* 19(2): 283-291.
2. Barman, R. P., Das, A., Mishra, S. S. and Kar, S. 2012. Redescription of *Barilius howesi* Barman, 1986, a valid cyprinid species (Pisces: Cypriniformes: Cyprinidae) from North Bengal, India. *Rec. zool. Surv. India*, 111 (1): 31-35.
3. Biswas S., Mishra S.S., Satpathy K.K., Das N.P.I., Selvanayagam M. and Nayak L., 2012. A new record of a garden eel, *Heteroconger tomlerua* (Actinopterygii: Anguilliformes: Congridae), from the Indian Ocean. *Acta Ichthyologica et Piscatoria*, 42 (1): 65-68.
4. P. Girish Kumar 2011. Redescription and new distributional records of *Oreumenoides edwardsii* (de Saussure) (Hymenoptera: Vespidae; Eumeninae) from India. *Records of Zoological Survey of India*, 111 (1): 11-16.
5. Sen, D., Chatterjee, A. & Manna, B. 2012. A new and two known species of Dorylaimoidea (Nematoda) from West Bengal, India. *Zootaxa*, 3258: 46-57.



During the visit of Dr. James Cresswell and Ms. Barbara Smith of the University of Exeter, U.K.



During the celebration of the 121st Birth Anniversary of Baba Saheb Dr. B. R. Ambedkar



Books published



Whistling teals (*Dendrocygna javanica*) at Cutting's Jeel at Halisahar. Photo: Sankar Talukdar, ZSI, Kolkata



Purple Moorhen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)
Photo: Sankar Talukdar, ZSI, Kolkata



Whitebreasted kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*)
Photo: Sankar Talukdar, ZSI, Kolkata

Freshwater Biology Regional Centre, Hyderabad

A field survey was conducted on 24th April covering 2 aquatic ecosystems, the Ameenpur irrigation tank and the Bandakum pond, Medak District, Andhra Pradesh and representative fauna collected. Ten species of Mollusca, 2 spp. of Rotifera, 1 species of Cladocera and 4 spp. of fishes were identified during the period. Besides, 4 species of aquatic coleopteran insects and 6 species of fishes were also identified from the unidentified collections of Cumbam Lake, Prakasam Dist., Andhra Pradesh. Two scientific papers were published. Sixteen Post graduate Students from the Life sciences department of Osmania University, Hyderabad, visited the museum.

Publications:

1. Deepa. J. 2012. Role of Aquatic Insects as Biomonitors, Hussain Sagar Lake, Hyderabad, *Biol. Forum* 4(1): 22-24.
2. Gopal Sharma, G. B Chand, Deepa Jaiswal and Indu Sharma. 2011. Fish Diversity of Chauras of North Bihar. In: *Faunal Diversity of Chauras of North Bihar, Wetland Ecosystem Series*, 14: 49-92.



A fish catch from Krishnaraja Sagar Reservoir, Mysore, Karnataka

Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair

Marine and terrestrial ecosystems of Rani Jhansi Marine National Park, Nancowry group of islands, and Great Nicobar Island were surveyed during 3rd to 6th, 16th to 26th and 1st to 30th April 2012 respectively. As a result of the field studies, 134 species of scleractinian corals, 13 species of echinoderms, 43 species of opisthobranchs, 4 species of polyclads, 107 species of gastropods, 6 species of brachyuran crabs and 9 species of fishes from marine habitat; 9 species of butterflies, 19 species of odonates from the terrestrial habitats and 3 species of fishes from freshwater streams have been identified. Among them, 2 species of corals viz. *Stylophora danae* (MED & H, 1851) and *Stylophora subseriata* (Ehrenberg, 1834); opisthobranch *Halgerda albocristata* Gsoliner & Fahey, 1998; 2 species of polyclads *Pseudobiceros gratus* (Kato, 1937) and *Pseudoceros scintillatus* Newman & Canno, 1994; 2 species of crabs

Tetralia nigrolineata Serene & Dat, 1957 and *Tetralia cinctipes* Paulson 1875 were new records to Indian waters. A total of 155 specimens including 49 specimens of corals, 97 specimens of molluscs and 9 specimens of butterflies were registered in the National Zoological Collection of ZSI. Report on the 'Rapid EIA studies for runway extension in Naval Air Station, Shibpur, North Andaman' has been prepared and submitted to Indian Navy, Port Blair. The book titled, 'Ecology of faunal communities on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands' was edited and submitted to the publishers. Dr. C. Sivaperuman, Scientist-C reviewed two manuscripts for World Applied Science Journal. Mr. Tamal Mondal, Senior Research Fellow participated in the summer school on 'Ecological Informatics' at the Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management-Kerala, Trivandrum from 9th-13th April 2012.

Publications:

1. Raghunathan, C., K. Venkataraman and P.T. Rajan, 2012. Status of sea cow, *Dugong dugong* in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. *Nature Environment and Pollution Technology*, 11(1):105-112.
2. Tamal Mondal, C. Raghunathan and K. Venkataraman, 2012. Scleractinian diversity of Ritchie's Archipelago, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. *Global Journal of Science Frontier Research*, 12(4):53-64.
3. Sreeraj, C.R., C. Sivaperuman and C. Raghunathan, 2012. An annotated checklist of Opisthobranch fauna (Gastropoda: Opisthobranchia) of the Nicobar Islands, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 4(4): 2499-2599
4. Sivaperuman C. 2012. Diversity and community structure of Butterflies in Ritchie's Archipelago, Andaman & Nicobar Islands. *Biological Forum-An International Journal*, 4(1): 45-53.
5. Sivaperuman C. and Suresh Kumar Shah 2012. Diversity of Moths in Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve (GNBR), Andaman & Nicobar Islands. *Biological Forum-An International Journal*, 4(1):54-60.
6. Sivaperuman C. and Suresh Kumar Shah 2012. Diversity of Moths in Neil Island, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. *Biological Forum-An International Journal*, 4(1): 61-64.
7. Sivaperuman C. and Suresh Kumar Shah 2012. Species diversity and abundance of Odonata in Ritchie's Archipelago, Andaman & Nicobar Islands. *Biological Forum-An International Journal*, 4(1):65-69.
8. Sivaperuman, C. and C. Raghunathan. 2012. Bird communities of Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve (GNBR): Patterns of diversity and abundance. 64-83. In: *Tropical Ecosystems: Structure, Function and Services*. (Eds.) B. Nagarajan, C. Kunnikannan, K.R. Sasidharan, and N. Krishnakumar, IFGTB, Coimbatore.
9. Sivaperuman, C. and E.A. Jayson. 2012. Seasonal dynamics of bird's assemblages in Kole wetlands, Kerala. 122-129. In: *Tropical Ecosystems: Structure, Function and Services*. (Eds.) B. Nagarajan, C. Kunnikannan, K.R. Sasidharan, and N. Krishnakumar, IFGTB, Coimbatore.
10. Sivaperuman, C. 2012. Patterns in the composition and distribution of fauna, Thar Desert, India. pp. 139-147. In: *Tropical Ecosystems: Structure, Function and Services*. (Eds.) B. Nagarajan, C. Kunnikannan, K.R. Sasidharan, and N. Krishnakumar, IFGTB, Coimbatore.

Coral, *Acropora caroliniana* NemenzoCoral, *Galaxea fascicularis* (Linnaeus)



Coral, *Pavona bipartita* Nemenzo



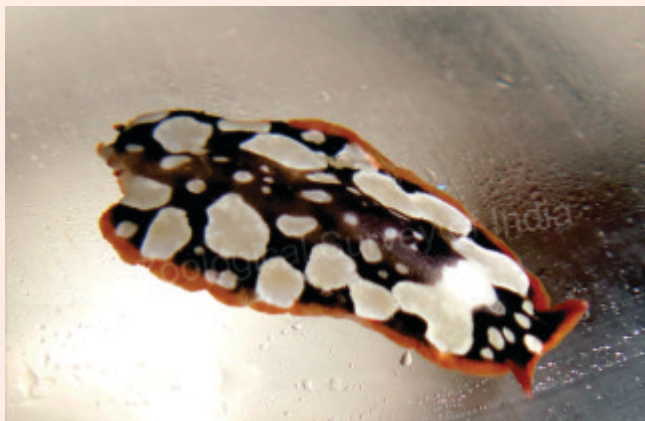
Coral, *Physogyra lichtensteini* (Milne Edwards and Haime)



Opisthobranch, *Halgerda albocristata* Gosliner & Fahey



Polyclad, *Pseudobiceros gratus* Kato



Polyclad, *Pseudoceros scintillatus* Newman & Cannon



Echinoderm, *Ophiothrix spiculata* (Le conte)

Gangetic Plains Regional Centre, Patna

During the month, 12 species of Noctuidae (Lepidoptera) and 10 species of Mollusca were identified. One research paper was published.

Publication:

Gopal Sharma, Hasko Nesemann and Mohita Sardana (2012) Molluscan diversity of

temporary and permanent Wetlands in and around Patna, Bihar. Biological Forum-An International Journal, Spl. Issue. 4 (1): 165-170: 2249-32 (Online).

*Amerila astreus* (Drury)*Chalciopie mygdon* Cramer*Thyas coronata* Fabricius

Arunachal Pradesh Regional Centre, Itanagar

A field survey was conducted in Pakke Tiger Reserve to study the bird communities. During the survey, some interesting species such as White-cheeked Partridge *Arborophila atrogularis*, Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthraceros albirostris*, Wreathed Hornbill *Aceros undulates* and Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis* were recorded besides Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*, Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis*

merulinus, Asian Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx maculates*, Great Thick-knee *Esacus recurvirostris*, Fairy Bluebird *Irena puella*, Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* and the Lesser Necklaced Laughing thrush *Garrulax monileger* and 85 other species of birds. Twenty-five school children visited the museum, besides a researcher from the G. B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development for library work.



Asian Fairy Bluebird



White-rumped Shama



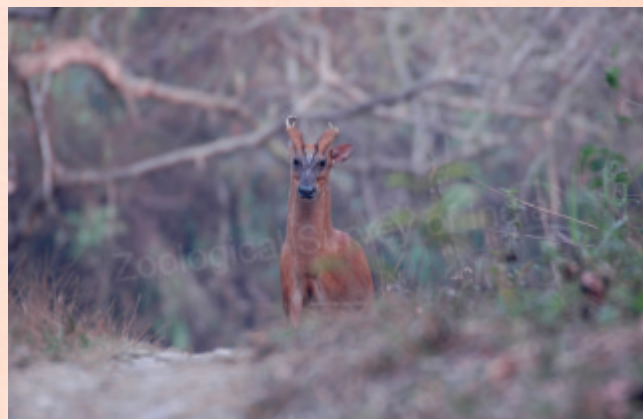
Red-breasted Flycatcher



Red-headed Trogon



Great Thick-knee



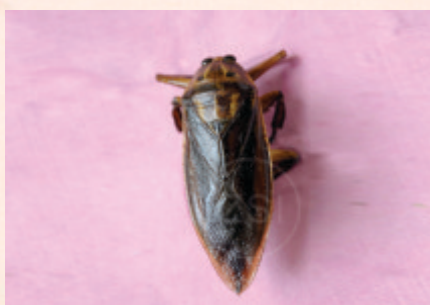
Barking Deer

North Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong

During the month, 11 species of fishes collected from the earlier surveys in East Khasi Hills district, Meghalaya and 2 species of amphibians from the backlog collections were identified. Images and metadata of *Physoschistura elongata* (Holotype) and *Mesonoemacheilus reticulofasciatus* (Holotype and 9 Paratypes) belonging to Pisces: Cypriniformes: Balitoridae were digitized. Under the programme, computerization of identified data, 294 entries of fishes and 72 entries of amphibians were data based. The manuscripts on "*Taxonomic studies of the family Cerambycidae under the order Coleoptera*

in East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya" and "*Studies on the Reptilian and Amphibian fauna of Loktak Lake and Keibul Lamjao National Park and its adjoining areas, Manipur*" are under finalisation. A manuscript on "Faunal Inventory of Nokrek Biosphere Reserve, Garo Hills Meghalaya" has been reviewed as per referee's comments and resubmitted for publication.

Mrs. I.J. Kharkongor, Scientist-C attended the 6th meeting of the state Board for Wildlife Assam on 18th April at the Assam Secretariat, Dispur, Assam.

*Macrochenus guerini* White*Lethocerus indicus* (Lepel. & Serv.)*Laccotrephes ruber* (Linn.)

Desert Regional Centre, Jodhpur

An environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) survey on fauna of Gurah (West) lignite mine area, Bikaner was conducted from 5th to 9th April. Eleven species of fishes from River Chambal, Rajasthan were identified and registered. Final report on the Taxonomic studies of aquatic nematodes of lakes of

Udaipur, Rajasthan was submitted. A manuscript dealing with information on 45 species of nematodes of Sitamata Wildlife Sanctuary, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan was also submitted. Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Scientist-C provided identification and advisory services to AFRI on 9 species of Lepidoptera. Dr. Sanjeev

Kumar, Scientist-C compiled information on Rare and endangered animal species, Red listed species and endemic species of Gujarat and submitted the list to Member Secretary, Gujarat Biodiversity Board, Gandhinagar. He also provided information on snakes of Rajasthan to the Food and Safety Officer, Office of CM and HO, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar reviewed a manuscript on the major fauna of Rasik Beel Wetland Complex, West Bengal and offered his comments.



Egyptian Vulture, *Neophron percnopterus*



Eurasian Collared Dove, *Streptopelia decaocto*

Publications:

1. Suri Babu, B. and Gaurav Sharma, 2012. On some aspects of Terretoriality and reproduction of *Pseudagrion microcephalum* (Rambur) (Insecta: Odonata: Zygoptera: Coenagrionoidea). *Biological Forum- An International Journal*, Spl.Iss.4 (1):25-31.
2. Hussain, A. and Gaurav Sharma, 2012. The Great Indian Bustard: Rare sighting with its general account. *Biological Forum- An International Journal*, Spl.Iss.4 (1):70-73.



Variable Wheatear, *Oenanthe picata*



Black Drongo, *Dicrurus macrocercus*

High Altitude Regional Centre, Solan

A field survey was conducted in Kalatop-khajjar Wildlife Sanctuary from 30th March to 3rd April and representative samples of nine animal groups were collected, documented 35 species of birds, recorded behavioural observations on mammals and birds and identified 3 species earthworms. The fish specimens received from NRC, ZSI Dehradun were identified as belonging to 4 species. One

lot of earthworm specimens has been received from the Dept. of Environmental Sciences and Limnology, Barakatullah University, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh and the identification of the same is in progress. The manuscript on the faunal diversity of Pangi valley, Chamba district was revised as per the referee's comments.



Yellow-billed Blue Magpie



Plum-headed parakeets

Marine Aquarium cum Regional Centre, Digha

During the month, 13 species of fishes and 39 species of molluscs were identified and 78 examples of live marine ornamental exhibits collected for exhibiting in the aquarium galleries. The major attractions among the aquarium exhibits were the Spiny lobster (*Panulirus ornatus*), Sucker fish (*Echeneis*

naucratus) and the Lion fish (*Pterois russeli*). The aquarium received an average of 260 tourists per day during the month. *Thallosoma hardwicke* and *Xyrichtys bimaculatus* have been identified for the first time from the coastal waters of West Bengal.

*Thallosoma hardwicke**Xyrichtys bimaculatus*

Western Regional Centre, Pune

During the month 4 species of Lepidoptera, 6 species of Hymenoptera, 4 species of aquatic Coleoptera, 8 species of Odonata, 7 species of Orthoptera, 4 species of Centipedes, 4 species of freshwater crabs, 7 species of fishes and 7 species of Reptilia were identified. Dr. R. M. Sharma, Scientist-D and Officer-in-Charge delivered a keynote address in a seminar on "Exploitation of Ocean

resources and opportunities for Indian Entrepreneurs" at Pune on 18th April, organized by the Indian Maritime Foundation (IMF), Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (MCCIA) and the Society for Underwater Technology, London (SUT). Dr. Sameer Kumar Pati, Zoological Assistant also participated in the seminar and presented a paper on "Marine faunal resources of Maharashtra:

Diversity conservation and management". Identification services were rendered on Orthoptera and Lepidoptera to researchers from the Modern College of Arts, Science &



Blue Tiger, *Tirumala limniace* (Cramer)

Commerce and Prof. Ramkrishna More Arts, Commerce & Science College, Pune, respectively.



Vespa tropica Linn.

Central Zone Regional Centre, Jabalpur

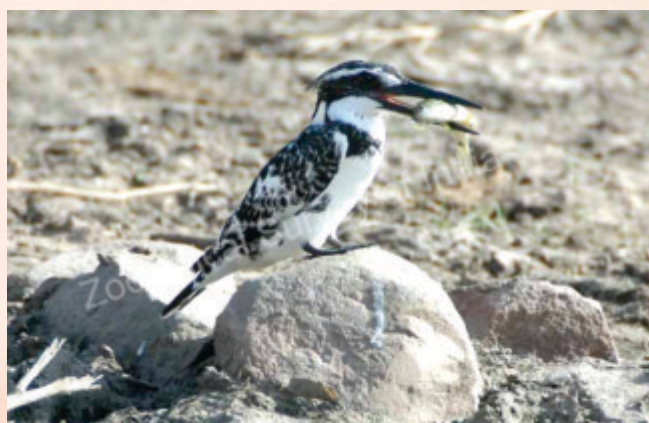
From the collections procured from the Singhori and Veerangana Durgawati Wildlife Sanctuaries, Madhya Pradesh, 12 species of Hemiptera, 8 species of Coleoptera (Scarabaeidae), 2 species of spiders (Araneae), 14 species of moths and 13 species of butterflies (Lepidoptera) were identified and registered. Four research papers were published.

Publications:

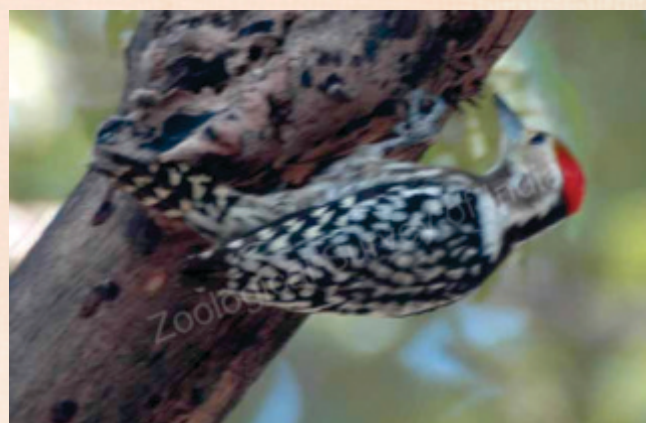
1. Sambath, S. 2011. Studies on the sphingid fauna (Lepidoptera: Heterocera: Sphingidae) of Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary, Jharkhand. *Rec. zool. Surv. India*, 111(Part-1): 25-30.
2. Mohammad Yousuf, S. Sambath and

Subhash Chandra. 2012. Pre-treatment of *Corcyra cephalonica* (Stainton) eggs for maximum production of wasps of *Trichogramma* spp. *The Indian Forester*, 138(3): 235-237

3. Talmale, S. S., Patil, Sachin R. and Sambath, S. (2012). First report of *Thelyphonusepiaris* (Butler, 1873) (Arachnida: Uropygi: Thelyphonidae) from Madhya Pradesh, India. *Indian Journal of Arachnology*, 1 (1):163-168.
4. Patil, Sachin R. (2012). Spiders of Jabalpur District (Arachnida: Araneae): Updated Checklist 2011. *Indian Journal of Arachnology*, 1 (1):143-149.



Ceryle rudis (Linnaeus)



Dendrocopos mahrattensis (Latham)

*Dicrurus caeruleus* (Linnaeus)*Nectarinia asiatica* (Latham)*Sturnus roseus* (Linnaeus)*Zosterops palpebrosus* (Temminck)

Southern Regional Centre, Chennai

During the month 6 species of Mollusca, 5 species of Rotifera, 5 species of Cladocera and 5 species of Reptilia were identified from southern and middle Eastern Ghats. One paper was published. Two identification and advisory services were rendered. Dr. K. Ilango, Scientist-D & Officer-in-Charge, attended a workshop on

the State Environmental Policy, organized by the Tamil Nadu Government.

Publication:

Thilak. J. 2012. Record of the Cladocerans from Southern Eastern Ghats, Tamil Nadu. *Bionotes*, Vol.14 (1) 9-10.

Marine Biology Regional Centre, Chennai

A field survey was conducted in the Mandapam group of islands in Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve to study the epibenthic fauna in sea grass ecosystem, during the month. Besides, a deep sea faunal survey was also carried out off the Chennai coast for six hours in a trawl boat and representative faunal samples collected. Scientists of the Centre identified 14 species of sea grass associated foraminiferans, 13 species of fishes, 8 species of marine sponges, 4 species each of nematodes and crabs, 3 species

of molluscs and 1 species each of ostrocod and isopod, out of the material collected from Palkbay and Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve. Forty eight identified species were digitized and metadata compiled. Dr. C. Venkatraman Scientist-C & Officer-in-Charge attended the Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC) meeting at GLR laboratories, Madhavaram, Chennai, as external scientist. One research paper was published and 2 manuscripts submitted for publication. Live specimens of

fishes, nudibranchs, molluscs and echinoderms were introduced in the marine aquarium. The marine aquarium and museum were visited by 585 students and tourists during the month.



Dorippe dorsipes



Matuta planipes



Portunus pubescens



Portunus sanguineatus

Sunderban Regional Centre, Canning

A field Survey was conducted in and around Sunderban from 31st March to 11th April to study the diversity of Orthoptera in and around Sunderban and representative fauna collected. Besides, one species of snake and 6 species of crabs were identified and registered.



Attractomorpha crenulata

Estuarine Biology Regional Centre, Gopalpur-on-Sea

During the month, 33 species of Mollusca and 10 species of fishes collected from different parts of Odisha were identified. One research paper was published. Identification and advisory services were rendered to research scholars of Berhampur University and Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture,



Nematolosa nasus (Bloch)

Bhubaneswar. Twenty five students visited the museum.

Publication:

Kosygin, L. 2012. Diversity of Freshwater Fishes of Mizoram, India with a note on Conservation Strategies. *Biological Forum-An International Journal*, Spl. Iss. 4(1): 171-179.



Sillago sihama (Forsskål)

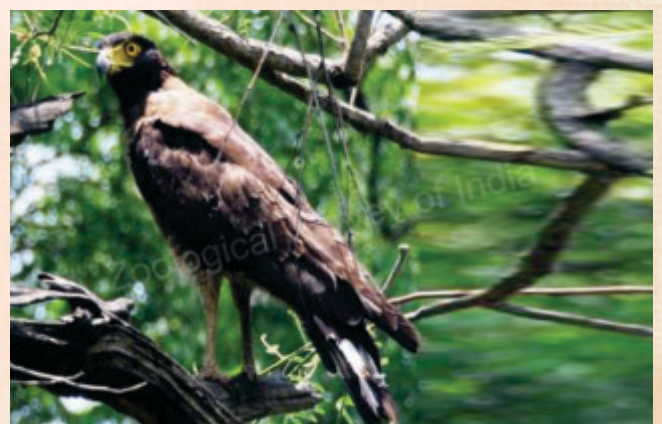
Northern Regional Centre, Dehra Dun

Nine species of small horned grasshoppers and 18 species of butterflies from Punjab and 14 species of Acridoidea from Dehradun district were identified during the month. Five species of Pisces were digitized. 48 entries of Pisces and 5 entries of Nematodes have been made in the Vertebrate and Invertebrate database, respectively. SEM analyses of the hair samples of 4 species of Lagomorpha [*Lepus nigricolis* Cuvier, *Lepus arabeus* Ehrenberg, *Oryzomys m. macrotis* (Gunther), *Oryzomys ladacensis* (Gunther)] were completed. Thirty four permanent slides of soil nematodes and 10 slides of helminths were prepared for morphological studies. Three research papers were published and two papers were submitted for publication. The NRC Museum was visited by 170 visitors during the month.

Publications:

1. Sharma N. 2011. New species of the genus *Ypthima* Hubner (Lepidoptera: Papilionidae: Satyridae) from North-West India. *Rec. zool. Surv. India*: 111(part-1): 79-83.

2. Sharma, V. 2011. Terrestrial Nematodes of Rajasthan Forest: "Eleven new records of subfamily Quadrianematinae (Nematoda: Dorylaimida) *Annals of Forestry*. 19 (2): 295-302.
3. Tak, P. C. and Sati, J. P. 2011. A preliminary list of birds of Jhimil Jheel Conservation Reserve, Haridwar, Uttarakhand, India. *Newsletter for Birdwatchers*, 51 (5): 65-70.



Crested Serpent-Eagle, *Spilornis cheela* Latham

Western Ghat Regional Centre, Kozhikode (Calicut)

A new species of Centipede, *Cryptops malabarensis* sp. nov. (Scolopendromorpha: Cryptopidae) was described from southern Western Ghats. An extensive survey tour to Idukki district, southern Western Ghats was conducted from 3rd-13th April and representative faunal samples collected. 4 species of Pteromalidae (Hymenoptera: Insecta), 4 species of Mantodea (Insecta), 5 species of Centipedes (Chilopoda) and samples of Ceraphronoidea & Cynipoidea (Hymenoptera) were identified out of the material collected during the survey. Besides, 13 species of Odonata were identified from collections received from SRC, ZSI, Chennai.

One research paper and a popular article were published and a research paper submitted for publication.

Identification and advisory service was rendered to a M.Phil student of Bharathidasan University, Tamil Nadu on Odonata.

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 and also those of two M. Sc. students from the

Govt. College, Madappally, Calicut, attached to the Centre for their project work.

The Centre received the Rajbhasha Shield-2011 (First Prize for Offices without Hindi Officers) and Certificate for significant contribution to Official Language implementation during 2010-11, awarded by the Town Official language Implementation Committee, Kozhikode:

http://zsi.gov.in/right_menu/zsi_hindi.html. During the month, 269 visitors paid their visits to the museum.

Publications:

1. Dhanya Balan, P.M. Sureshan & V. Khanna (2012). A new species of centipede of the genus *Cryptops* Leach (Scolopendromorpha: Cryptopidae) from southern Western Ghats with a key to the species of *Cryptops* in India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 4(4): 25102514. <http://www.threatenedtaxa.org/ZooPrintJournal/2012/April/o303526iv122510-2514.pdf>
2. Muhamed Jafer Palot, 2012. Animal of the month. Kanara Oak blue, *Arhopala alea* (Hewitson). *ZSI e-News*, 4 (2): 19.

The new species of Centipede described from Western Ghats



Cryptops malabarensis

The Rajbhasha Shield-2011 and Certificate received by WGRC/ZSI, Calicut



Framed Pictorials added to the Museum at WGRC, Calicut



Gaur



Slender Loris



Nigiri Marten

ANIMAL OF THE MONTH**Chalazodes Bubble-nest Frog**
Raorchestes chalazodes (Gunther, 1876)

[Text & Photo: Muhamed Jafer Palot, WGRC/ZSI, Calicut]

Raorchestes chalazodes (Gunther, 1876) is one of the most beautiful bush frogs described so far from the Western Ghats. The frog was described in 1876 based on a single female specimen from 'Travancore'. There was no authentic report of this species since 1876 until its rediscovery in February 2011 by S.D. Biju & team, after a gap of 135 years. Recent surveys show that the species is locally common in Shendurney and Peppara Wildlife Sanctuaries

of Kerala State and in Kalakkadu Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu. It is a nocturnal, arboreal species associated with the under-storey of tropical moist evergreen forests or reed brakes. It is believed to breed by direct development. This species is threatened by the conversion of natural forest to intensively cultivated areas or plantations. The species is listed as Critically Endangered in the IUCN Redlist of threatened species- 2011.

CHECKLIST OF INDIAN FAUNA**Mantodea (Insecta)**

<http://zsi.gov.in/checklist/mantodea.pdf>

OUT OF THE BOX

Now, a special glue inspired by gecko feet!

<http://dailypioneer.com/home/online-channel/dont-miss-it/43371-now-a-special-glue-inspired-by-gecko-feet.html>

Fossil footprints of prehistoric elephants discovered

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/229237/fossil-footprints-prehistoric-elephants-discovered.html>

Giant Bloodsuckers! Oldest Fleas Discovered

<http://www.livescience.com/18734-giant-ancient-fleas-discovered.html>

PAINTINGS FROM ZSI HERITAGE ALBUM

Leopard

Panthera pardus (Linnaeus, 1758)

