

ZSI e-NEWS

The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of Zoological Survey of India

Volume - 04 :: Number - 8

August 2012

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



ZSI e-NEWS

Back issues of *ZSI e-NEWS*

[Visit www.zsi.gov.in/...]

Headquarters, Kolkata

Extensive field surveys were undertaken in the States of Himachal Pradesh and Assam. During the month, 5 species of Protozoa, 4 species of Platyhelminthes, 1 genus of Nemathelminthes, 5 species of Collembola, 19 species of Hemiptera, 2 species of Hymenoptera, 5 species of Orthoptera, 12 species of Coleoptera, 6 species of Isoptera, 10 species of Arachnida, 12 species of Mollusca, 7 species of Crustacea, 9 species of Fishes, 5 species of Amphibia and 7 species of Mammals from the States of Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu (South Eastern Ghats), Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal (Darjeeling hills) were identified.

Labronema neodiversum Mondal, Manna & Gantait, 2012 (Dorylaimida: Qudsianematidae) has been described as a new species. The amphibian genus *Xenophrys* (Amphibia) has been recorded from Khasi hills, Meghalaya. Twenty Paratypes of 12 species of freshwater fishes have been deposited in the National Zoological Collection by Prof. W. Vishwanath of Manipur University, Imphal.

Six research papers were published, 11 research papers accepted and 9 research papers communicated.

A Handbook on Diversity in some of the Indian Butterflies (Insecta: Lepidoptera) and a book entitled "*Paschim Banger Sadharan Samundik Prani*", in Bengali, were published.

Identification and advisory services were rendered on 17 lots of specimens, received from different Institutions and Organizations. In addition, identification and advisory services were also rendered to M.Sc. students on Coleoptera and 7 species of gobioid fishes to Mrs. Mithila Das, Lecturer in Zoology, S.N. College, Rajkanika, Odisha. On request of the Divisional Forest Officer, 24-Parganas South Division, Alipore, Kolkata, one truck load of confiscated shark specimens were examined

and 7 species of sharks and rays were identified. The seized animal scales received from the Reg. Deputy Director, W.C.C.B., E.R., Nizam Palace, were identified as that of Pangolin *Manis crassicaudata*. Also received two samples of seized Deer-Antlers received from the Reg. Deputy Director, W.C.C.B., N.R., MoEF, Bikaner House, Shajahan Road, New Delhi, and were identified as that of the White tailed deer, *Odocoileus virginianus* Zimmermann. The shark specimen brought from the Basirhat Range Office, Sundarban Tiger Reserve, West Bengal was identified as *Carcharhinus sorrah* (Muller & Henle, 1839) and 2 nos. of Shark teeth belonging to the Porbeagle shark, *Lamna nasus* (Bonnaterre, 1788) were identified for the Deputy Commissioner of Customs (Prev.), Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi. Three species of Sharks, one species of Guitar fish and 3 species of Sting Rays were identified for the Beat Officer, Haldibari Beat, N.P.W. Range, Sundarban Tiger Reserve, West Bengal.

Dr. Annemarie Ohler, Curator of Vertebrate Collections at the Paris Museum of Natural History, Paris, France, visited the Amphibia & Protochordata Section from 27th-31st August and studied the specimens of Himalayan hill-stream frogs. Mr. B. K. Baliar Singh of Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (Indian Council of Agricultural Research), Bhubaneswar, visited the Fish Division from 21st-28th August, for the identification of fishes. Two research scholars of Ranchi University visited the Coleoptera Section. Miss Swagata Mondal of Zoology Department, Calcutta University, visited the Nemathelminthes Section for the identification of nematodes. Dr. Rajesh Kumar from Central Silk Board, Jorhat, Assam, visited the Hymenoptera Section. The Honorable Chief Justice, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi, visited different Divisions / Sections on 24th August, 2012.

On behalf of the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Shri S. S. Mishra, Scientist-B and Officer-in-charge of Marine Fish Section, attended the meeting of the Similipal Biosphere Reserve Management Council (SBRMC) at Odisha Secretariat, Bhubaneswar. Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Scientist-C, participated in the "Akhil Bharatiya Rajbhasha Sangoshti-Sansadiyae Rajbhasha Samiti Nirikshan Prashanavali" Training Programme at Hotel Samudra, Kovalam, Kerala, organized by the "Centre for Training and Development", Bangalore, on 21st and 22nd August. Dr. K. A. Subramanian, Scientist-C, represented the Director, Zoological Survey of India in the "Consultation Meeting on National Biodiversity Targets", organized by the National Biodiversity Authority at New Delhi.

Dr. K. A. Subramanian, participated and presented a paper on "Diversity and Distribution of Odonata of the Western Ghats" at Society for Conservation Biology-Asia Conference at IISc, Bangalore from 7th-10th, August 2012. He also identified samples of Odonata larvae received from Dr. Biju Kumar, Dept of Zoology, Kerala University, Trivandrum.

Dr. G. P. Mandal, Scientist C and Dr. Girish Kumar, P., Zoological Assistant, attended the Training on Operation of Scanning Electron Microscope at Carl Zeiss NTS Ltd., Cambridge, U.K., from 30th July to 3rd August, 2012.

Shri K.C. Gopi attended the training programme on "Science and Technology for Rural Societies" from 20th- 31st August, at Mussoorie, organized by CDM, NIAR, LBS National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, sponsored by Department of Science and Technology (DST), New Delhi.

Dr. K. Venkataraman, Director, ZSI, attended the review meeting of activities of S.R.C. and M.B.R.C., Chennai on 2nd August, 2012 along with Dr. Nandita Chatterjee, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi. Dr. K. Venkataraman attended the ClimaAdapt Programme and

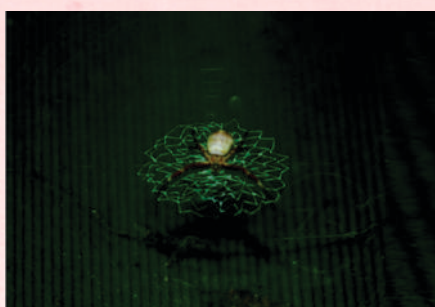
National Consultation on Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Conservation in India, organized by M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), from 16th - 17th August and delivered a talk on "Gaps in Conservation of Marine and Coastal biodiversity." He also attended the meeting to discuss the Agenda of CoP-11 for the preparation of a brief for the Indian delegates on 27th August, 2012 at the Indian Habitat Centre, Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi.

Publications:

1. Chandra, K. Raghunathan, C. Sivaperuman, C. Kamala, D. Rajan, P. T. Shah, S. K. Sreeraj, C. R. Sadhukan, K. Mandal, T. Yogesh Kumar, J. S. Raghuram. R. Kumarlingam, S. and Rajeshkumar, S. 2012. Faunal Diversity of Andaman and Nicobar Island-Threat and Management. *ENVIS Newsletter*, 18(1&2):2-13.
2. Chandra, K. Kushwaha, S. Sambath, S. and Biswas, B. 2012. Distribution and Diversity of Hemiptera Fauna of Veerangana Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuary, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh, India, *Biological Forum*, 4(1):68-74.
3. Chandra, K. and Gupta, D. 2012. First Report on Five species of genus *Onthophagus* Latreille, 1802 (Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae) from Madhya Pradesh, India, and their description of external male genitalia. *Biodiversity Journal*, 3(2): 99-106.
4. Mondal, S., Manna, B. & Gantait, V.V. 2012. *Labronema neodiversum* sp. n., a new nematode from West Bengal, India. *Nematologia mediterranea*, 40: 61-65.
5. Deuti, K., Ray, S & Dey, S. K. 2012. Status survey of the Khasi hills Rock Toad (*Bufoides meghalayana*) in Cherrapunjee, Meghalaya. *Rec. zool. Surv. Ind.*, 111(3): 21-25.
6. P. Girish Kumar (2012). Indian Hairy Wasps. *ENVIS Newsletter*, ENVIS Centre on Faunal Biodiversity. Published by the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, 18(1&2): 14-16.



Crab Spider, *Synaema decorata*



Juvenile *Argiope pulchella*



Orange striped Lynx Spider,
Oxyopes birmanicus



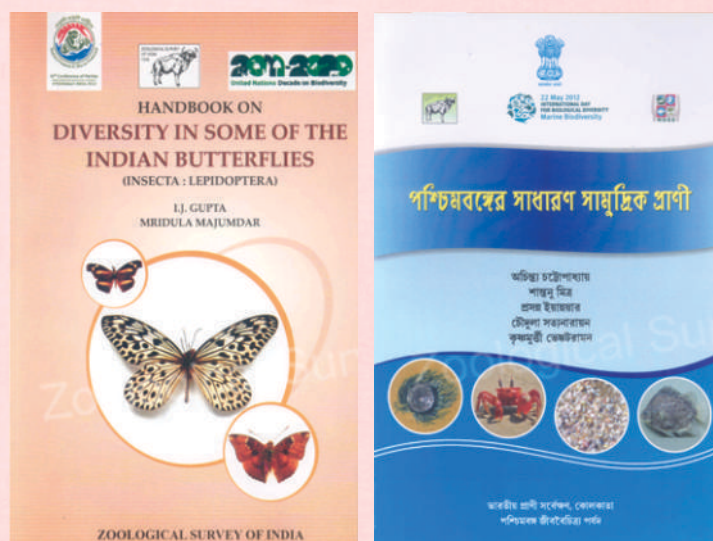
Giant crab spider, *Heteropoda venatoria*



During the training on Operation of Scanning Electron Microscope attended by Dr. G. P. Mandal and Dr. Girish Kumar, ZSI, Kolkata, at Carl Zeiss NTS Ltd., Cambridge, U.K



During the of Independence Day celebrations at ZSI, Kolkata



Books Published

Freshwater Biology Regional Centre, Hyderabad

The fishes collected from Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) Reservoir, Mysore, Karnataka, were identified as belonging to 7 species. The zooplankton samples collected from freshwater bodies of Hyderabad were analysed and 3 species of rotifers, 5 species of Cladocera and 1 species of calanoid copepod were identified. Twenty three specimens of Identified National Zoological collections were digitized.



The Glassy perchlet, *Parambassis nama*, from KRS Reservoir, Mysore

Southern Regional Centre, Chennai

As a part of modernization programme of the Centre, a special function was organized on 2nd August to inaugurate the DNA Lab, Advanced Microscope facility and Insect storage system by Ms Nandita Chatterjee, Additional Secretary, MoEF, New Delhi. Identifications of different faunal groups collected from the Southern & Middle Eastern Ghats were Odonata: 4 species, Mollusca: 17 spp. and Reptilia: 7 spp. A research paper was published and ten manuscripts submitted for publication. Two identification and advisory services were rendered. Dr. K. Ilango, Scientist-D & Officer-in-Charge was invited by the Defense Research Laboratory (Defense Research Development Organization, Govt. of India), Tezpur (Assam), from 28th-31st August, to discuss and deliver

guest lectures on (i) Vector and Vector Borne Diseases of North East India; (ii) the History of Leishmaniasis in North East India. As a member of the 'Core Group' Dr. Ilango attended the review meeting on Tamil Nadu State Environment Policy at the TN Forest Department on 8th of the month. He also inaugurated the 'Science Exhibition' at Sir Rajah Muthaiah Higher Sec. School, Rajaannamalapuram on 13th August.

Publication:

Thilak, J and Bindu, L. 2012. On some testate Amoebae (Protozoa: Rhizopoda) reported from Southern Eastern Ghats (Vellore, Thiruppathur and Thiruvannamalai districts) of Tamil Nadu, India. *J. Recent Trends Biosci.*, 2 (1): 3-9.

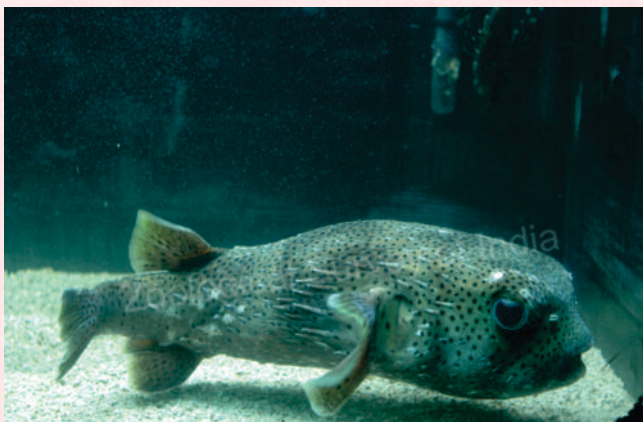
Marine Biology Regional Centre, Chennai

Scientists of the Centre identified 1 species each of Sipunculida and Annelida, 2 species of Mollusca, 3 species of Protozoa, 5 species of Nematoda and 13 species of Pisces out of the materials collected from Idaikazhinadu (Chennai), Palkbay and Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve. One research paper was published and 2 research papers were submitted for publication. During the month, 25 species were digitized and metadata compiled. Dr. C. Venkatraman Scientist-C & Officer-in-Charge and Dr. Rajkumar Rajan, Scientist- C attended two days' meeting on "Launch of the ClimaAdapt Programme" and National Consultation on "Coastal and Marine Biodiversity Conservation in India: The Future We Want", organized by M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai and attended

two days meeting on "Mangroves For the Future Regional Colloquium: Sharing lessons on Mangrove Restoration", organised by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Mangroves For the Future India at Mamallapuram and supervised the research projects of JRFs of the Centre. A total of 145 specimens belonging to eight groups of fishes were introduced in the marine aquarium. One thousand four hundred and twenty seven tourists visited the marine aquarium and museum during the month.

Publication:

Thilak, J and Bindu, L. 2012. On some testate amoebae (Protozoa: Rhizopoda) reported from Southern Eastern Ghats (Vellore, Thiruppathur and Thiruvannamalai districts) of Tamil Nadu, India. *J. Recent Trends Biosci.*, 2(1): 3-9.



Diodon hystrix Linnaeus



Lates calccarifer (Bloch)



Odonus niger Rüppell

Western Regional Centre, Pune

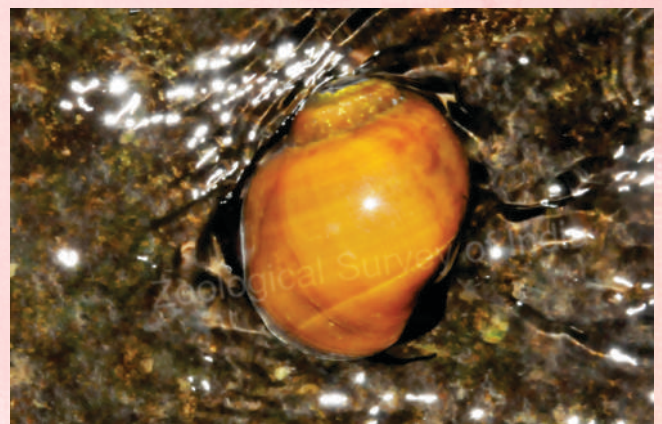
During the month, 2 species of Collembola, 8 species of Odonata, 5 species of Hymenoptera, 6 species of crabs and 5 species of fishes were identified. Two papers were published. Vertebrate Skin samples received for identification from the Forest department, Jalgaon district, Maharashtra, gallmidge (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae) samples from Dr. T. C. Narendran, Calicut, fish samples from Dr. Suresh Kumbar, ACS College, Palus, Sangli district were identified and reports submitted. Dr. R. M. Sharma, Scientist-D & Officer-in-Charge attended a high level meeting convened by Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, Govt. of Maharashtra on 4th of August at Sinchan Bhawan, Pune. He also attended a meeting convened by the Municipal Commissioner, Pune Corporation on 24th of the month at PMC, Pune, to formulate Urban Biodiversity studies. Eighty students from Eurokid International School, Chinchwad, Pune, and 88 students from City Pride School, Nigdi, Pune, visited the museum.

Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair

Marine and terrestrial ecosystems of Landfall Island, East Island, Twin Island, Lamia Bay, Ross & Smith Islands and Diglipur in North Andaman were surveyed from 7th-13th August. Besides, local surveys were conducted on 4th, 7th-9th and 24th August at South Andaman. As a result of the surveys, 197 species of scleractinian corals, 9 species of echinoderms, 10 species of gastropods, 13 species of opisthobranchs, 2 species of polyclads, 7 species of crabs and 19 species of fishes from marine habitats and 18 species of insects, 57 species of butterflies, 2 species of amphibians, 5 species of lizards, 1 species of scorpion and 2 species of mammals from terrestrial habitats were identified besides 5 species of fishes from freshwater streams. Among them, scleractinian corals *Acropora crateriformis* (Gardiner, 1898); *Montastrea magnistellata* Chevalier, 1971; *Platygyra*

Publications:

1. Mitra, B., P. Parui and R. M. Sharma. 2011. Insecta: Diptera. Zool. Surv. India, Fauna of Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh), State Fauna Series, 15 (Part-3): 167-202.
2. Rane, P.D. 2011. Cladocera (Arthropoda: Crustacea). Zool. Surv. India, Fauna of Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh), State Fauna Series, 15 (Part-3): 45-83.



Pila (Turbinicola) saxea (Reeve), Endemic to Western Ghats

yaeyamaensis Eguchi and Shirai, 1977; *Pavona frondifera* (Lamarck, 1816); echinoderm *Comanthina belli* (P. H. Carpenter, 1888); opisthobranch *Gymnodoris okinawae* Baba, 1936; and polyclads *Pseudoceros imitates* Newman, Cannon & Brunckhorst, 1994; *Prosthiostomum trilineatum* Yeri & Kaburaki, 1920; and Nemertean *Notospermus tricuspidatus* (Quoy and Gaimier, 1833) were new distributional records to Indian waters. A total of 126 specimens including 57 specimens of corals, 8 specimens of sponges, 2 specimens of molluscs, 9 specimens of echinoderms, 29 specimens of butterflies, 8 specimens of dragonflies, 2 specimens of hymenopterans, 1 specimen of beetle, 2 specimens of amphibians, 6 specimens of reptiles and 2 specimens of mammals were registered in National Zoological Collection. A book on 'Acroporids of Andaman and Nicobar

Islands' has been submitted for publication. A Project proposal on the 'Reproductive Biology of Corals' has been submitted to ZSI headquarters for MoEF funding. Mr. P.T. Rajan, Sr. Zoological Assistant delivered a lecture on 'Faunal diversity of A&N Islands' at Forest Training School, Wimberligunj on 24th August. Mrs. Kamla Devi, Assistant Zoologist attended meetings for 'proposed Oceanarium' and 'Implementation of Environmental Education in School', held at the Secretariat of A&N Administration on 7th and 8th of the month, respectively. Dr. C. Sivaperuman, Scientist-C, reviewed two manuscripts and also delivered a lecture on 'Wildlife Census Techniques' at Forest Training School, Wimberligunj on 27th August. Dr. C. Raghunathan, Scientist-C and Officer-in-Charge served as a member for the Inter-Media Publicity Co-ordination Committee meeting organized by Doordarsan Kendra held at ZSI, Port Blair on 17th August.

Publications:

1. S. Rajesh Kumar, C. Raghunathan, P.C. Rasmussen, 2012. An apparently new species of *Rallina* crake from Great Nicobar Island, India, *BirdingASIA*, 17(2012): 44-46
2. Raghunathan, C. and K. Venkataraman, 2012. Diversity of Echinoderms in Rani Jhansi Marine National Park, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In: (Eds. Pawan Kumar, Pratibha Singh, Ram Jee Srivastava and R.K. Dubey), p.36-48.
3. Raghuraman, R., C.R. Sreeraj, C. Raghunathan and K. Venkataraman, 2012. Scleractinian coral diversity in Andaman and Nicobar Islands in comparison with other Indian reefs. In: *Marine Biodiversity, Uttar Pradesh State Biodiversity Board* (Eds. Pawan Kumar, Pratibha Singh, Ram Jee Srivastava and R.K. Dubey) p.75-92.
4. Kailash Chandra, C. Raghunathan, C. Sivaperuman, Kamla Devi, P.T. Rajan, S.K. Shah, C. R. Sreeraj, Kaushik Sadhukhan, Tamal Mondal, J. S. Yogesh Kumar, R. Raghuraman, S. Kumaralingam and S. Rajeshkumar, 2012. Faunal Diversity of Andaman and Nicobar Islands - Threats and Management, *ENVIS Newsletter*, 18(1&2): 2-13.
5. Mehmuna Begum, C. Raghunathan, N. V. Vinith Kumar and R. Kirubakaran, 2012. Diversity of Phytoplankton in South Andaman. (Eds. Pawan Kumar, Pratibha Singh, Ram Jee Srivastava and R.K. Dubey) p.108-116.
6. Senthil Kumar, S., C. Sivaperuman and B. P. Yadav, 2012. Management of Saltwater Crocodile (*Crocodilus prosus* Schneider) a case study in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India. *Herpetological Bulletin*, 120: 9-15.
7. Senthil Kumar, S., and C. Sivaperuman, 2011. Breeding of captive reticulated python *Broghammerus reticulatus* from the Nicobar Islands *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 108(3): 233-234.



Coral, *Scapophyllia cylindrica* (Milne Edwards & Haime)



Coral, *Acropora humilis* (Dana)

Coral, *Favites abdita* (Ellis and Solander)Coral, *Favites complanata* (Ehrenberg)Holothuria, *Pearsonthuria graffei* (Semper)Polychaete, *Prosthiostomum trilineatum* Yeri & Kaburaki

Arunachal Pradesh Regional Centre, Itanagar

During the month, 7 species of fishes from the recent collections have been studied. Some of the notable species were *Schizothorax richardsoni* and *Acrossocheilus hexagonolepis*. Twenty two species of the National Zoological collections have been digitalized during the month. A scientist from the Directorate of Geology &

Mining, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, visited the Centre during the month, besides 25 school students.

The Centre celebrated the National Independence Day on 15th August with full participation of all the staff and their families.

*Acrossocheilus hexagonolepis**Schizothorax richardsoni*

North Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong

During the month, 5 species of aquatic Hemiptera, 4 species of fishes, 4 species of Amphibia and 3 species of rodents were identified from the backlog collections of the Centre. Images and metadata of a Holotype & 2 Paratypes of *Lepidocephalichthys menoni* Pillai and Yazdani (Pisces: Cypriniformes: Cobiitidae) were digitized and collection data of 118 specimens of identified fishes recorded. A scientific paper on Faunal Inventory of Nokrek Biosphere Reserve, Meghalaya has been accepted for publication. A paper on the Range extension of *Xenophrys zunhebutoensis* (Amphibia: Anura: Megophryidae) in Meghalaya was resubmitted for publication. A manuscript on the reptilian and amphibian fauna of Loktak Lake, Keibul Lamjao National Park and its adjoining areas, Manipur and a technical report on the Preliminary Studies of Mayfly Nymphs (Insecta : Ephemeroptera) of Meghalaya, N. E. India, were submitted for publication.

Dr. J. R. Dhanze and Dr. A. B. Patil from College of fisheries, Central Agriculture University, Lembucherra, Tripura, visited the Centre on 3rd August. A teacher and 40 B.Sc. students of Lady Keane College, Shillong, visited the Centre on 28th of the month, as part of their educational tour.



During the visit of students of Lady Keane College, Shillong, at NERC, ZSI

Marine Aquarium cum Regional Centre, Digha

During the month, 183 examples of live marine ornamental exhibits were collected for exhibition in aquarium galleries. The major attractions among the aquarium exhibits during the month were, a three meter long slender giant moray (*Strophidon sathete*), White-spotted puffer (*Arothron hispidus*) and the parrot fish (*Scarus ghobban*). The aquarium received an average of 620 tourists per day. In total 144 specimens were identified which include *Ctenochaetus striatus* (Quoy & Gaimard), *Acanthurus auranticavus* Randall, *Acanthurus bariene* Lesson, *Sufflamen fraenatus* (Latreille), *Cyclichthys orbicularis* (Bloch) recorded for the first time from West Bengal coast. A research paper was published and one communicated during the month. During the Independence Day, staff of the Centre organized a plantation programme in the office premises.

Publication:

P. Yennawar, P. Tudu, A. Mohapatra, 2012. New record of two species of eels of the genus *Gymnothorax* (Muraenidae) in Digha coast of India. *J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 108 (3), 234-235.



Acanthurus auranticavus Randall

*Acanthurus bariene* Lesson*Sufflamen fraenatus* (Latreille)*Cyclichthys orbicularis* (Bloch)

Desert Regional Centre, Jodhpur

During the month, 11 species of nematodes, (which include 1 new record from the Rajasthan, state) and 1 species of fish from Kachchh Biosphere Reserve (KBR) were identified and registered. Besides, 3 genera of ants were identified from Rajasthan. Distributional description of 20 species of Aves from KBR, Gujarat was prepared. Dr. Padma Bohra, Scientist-D and Officer-in-Charge, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Scientist-C and Dr. H. S. Banyal, Scientist-C, attended a discussion meeting on 22nd August, with Dr. S. S. Choudhary, IFS, Chairman, Rajasthan Biodiversity Board, Jaipur and discussed the issues of faunal diversity pertaining to Rajasthan.

Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Scientist-C, provided advisory service on reptiles and birds of Rajasthan to a project fellow UGC-DRS-I (SAP) from department of Zoology, J.N.V. University, Jodhpur and also delivered a lecture on the

fauna of Gujarat & Rajasthan to 160 Students and ten faculty members from D. N. J. Adarsh High School, Deesa, Banaskantha District, Gujarat on 10th August. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar also delivered a lecture on the aims, activities, and role of ZSI, in classification and protection of animals to the 68th Forest Guard's trainee group of the State Forest Department, Rajasthan, on 24th August. The museum was visited by 207 persons.

Publications:

1. Bohra, P.2012.Twelve species of nematodes: new recods for India. *Journal of threatened Taxa*, 4(9):2889-2899.
2. Kumar, Sanjeev 2012. Marine National Park and Sanctuary, Gujarat- An Important Avian Congregation Site in India. In: *Recent Advances in Biodiversity of India*: Chapter 49: 429-443. Zoological Survey of India (Eds.: Raghunathan, Sivaperuman & Venkata raman).

3. Tak, N. and Kazmi, S.I., 2012. Lepidoptera (Insecta) Fauna from Thar Desert of Rajasthan. In: *Deserts: Fauna, Flora and Environment*. (Editors: J.C. Guevara, E.G. Grunwaldt *et al.*). ISBN 978-1-61324-977-2. Nova Science Publishers, Inc., Chapter 12: 185-189.



During the visit of the 68th Forest Guard trainees of the Rajasthan Forest Department, to DRC, ZSI

4. Kazmi, S.I. and Tak, N., 2012. Coleoptera (Insecta) Fauna from Thar Desert of Rajasthan. In: *Deserts: Fauna, Flora and Environment*. Chapter 10: 165-175. (Editors: J.C. Guevara, E.G. Grunwaldt *et al.*). ISBN 978-1-61324-977-2. Nova Science Publishers Inc., Chapter 10: 165-175.



Students and Teachers from D. N. J. Adarsh High School, Deesa, Gujarat, on their visit to DRC, ZSI

Central Zone Regional Centre, Jabalpur

During the month, 11 species of moths from Madhya Pradesh and 9 species of Hemiptera from the backlog collections, 4 species of Spiders from Veerangana Durgawati Wildlife Sanctuary, 3 species of Mammalia: Rodentia (Muridae) and 11 species of Spiders from Singhori Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh received for identification were identified and registered. Dr. S. Sambath, Scientist-C and Officer-in-Charge attended the Board of Studies meeting at St. Aloysius College, Jabalpur, as a member on 24th August. Shri. S. R. Patil, Senior Zoological Assistant visited ZSI, HQ, Arachnida section from 4th-18th August in connection with his studies on spiders. Mr.

Devanshu Gupta, Senior Research Fellow attended *Biodiversity-Asia-2012* conference in Bangalore, conducted by ATREE and presented a poster entitled 'Scarab beetle (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) diversity in Achanakmar-Amrarkantak Biosphere Reserve, Chhattisgarh (India)'. Four research papers were communicated. A live Owl specimen received from Officer-in-Charge, Regional Tiger Strike Force, Jabalpur was identified. 11 species (including 5 new species) of nematodes were donated to the Centre by the Parasitology laboratory, Department of Zoology, University of Allahabad.

Estuarine Biology Regional Centre, Gopalpur-on-Sea

A field survey was conducted from 16th-21st August in the Pennara Estuary, Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh, to study the diversity, ecology and distribution patterns of fauna in the estuarine system. Field observations and sampling from the estuary were made.

Representative samples of Mollusca, Crustacea and Pisces were collected during the survey for taxonomic studies. 7 species of Bivalve Mollusca were identified out of the specimens collected from Pennara Estuary. Twenty seven visitors including students of P. M. High

School, Gopalpur-on-Sea, Ganjam, visited the National Zoological collections at the Centre



Bivalve fishing at Pennera Estuary

during the month. Two manuscripts were submitted for publication.



Students of P.M. H.S., on their visit to EBRC, ZSI



During the Independence Day celebrations at EBRC, ZSI

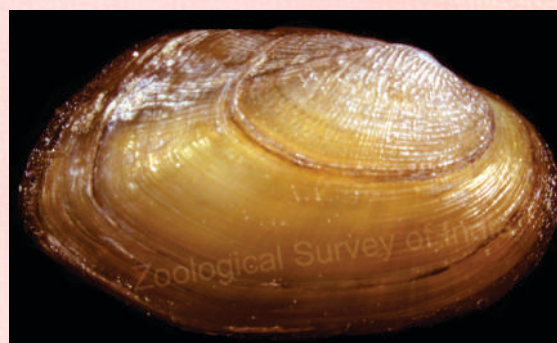
Gangetic Plains Regional Centre, Patna

During the month, out of the collections from protected areas of North Bihar, 12 species of Mollusca were identified. Besides, 10 species of Lepidoptera (Family: Noctuidae) were also identified. Faunal sampling was done in the Ram Nagar Kund in Vaishali and the Nalanda Medical College and Hospital areas in Patna. Three research papers were accepted. Two

posters on 'Aquatic Mollusca and Insecta Diversity of River Yamuna' and 'The Yamuna Biodiversity Park in New Delhi', were prepared for display. Local school and college students and 3 research students of Patna University visited the Museum and library of the Centre. Independence Day was celebrated on 15th August.



Lamellidens corrianus (Lea)



Radiatula occata (Lea)

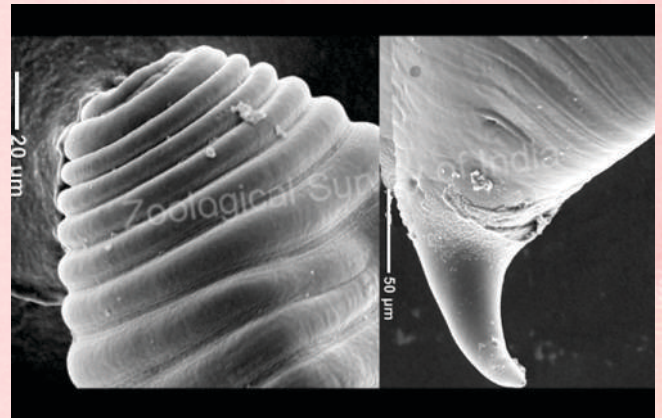
Northern Regional Centre, Dehra Dun

A field survey party proceeded for a general faunistic survey to Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary & National Park on 29th August. During the month, the following fauna were identified: 10 species of Acridoidea and 6 species of soil Nematodes from Dehradun surveys; 8 species of soil nematodes from Govind W. L.S & N.P, Uttarakhand. Permanent slides of 20 exs. of helminths and 10 exs. of soil nematodes were prepared for morphological studies. Identification and description of soil nematodes from Dehradun district is in process. The report writing on Trichotaxonomy of Lagomorpha is in final stages. Besides, extraction of DNA from hair and skin of some of the lesser cats was also done under the programme on Trichotaxonomy and molecular study of lesser cats.

Eleven species of Pisces were digitized and 30 entries of Lepidoptera and 10 entries of soil nematodes made in the Invertebrate Database. Dr P. C. Tak, Scientist-D, provided identification and advisory services on birds.

Shri P. T. Bhutia, Scientist-F and Officer-in Charge, and Dr. P.C.Tak represented the Centre in the meeting of the "State Wildlife Board", chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand on 4th August.

15 persons visited the Museum, during the month.



SEM micrograph of the anterior and posterior regions of the helminth, *Parapharyngodon* sp. (female), parasitising the Yellow-bellied House Gecko (*Hemidactylus flaviviridis*), taken on Neoscope JCM 5000

Sunderban Regional Centre, Canning

During the month, 5 species of Orthoptera from 16 examples were identified and registered.

Seven School students and a few general public visited the Museum at the Centre.



Acrida exaltata (Walker)

High Altitude Regional Centre, Solan

Faunistic survey in Spiti Valley Cold Desert, Dist. Lahul & Spiti, Himachal Pradesh, has been conducted from 3rd-23rd August. During the survey, 26 species of birds and 3 species of mammals were observed. Various taxa were also sampled which refer to 19 animal groups from different alpine habitats. Faunistic identification during the month includes 4 species of butterflies and 2 species of Orthoptera from the Cold desert of Spiti valley



Horned lark

and 3 species of Pisces from NRC, Dehradun collections. Document on the faunal Diversity of Pangi Valley has been accepted for publication besides a research paper on Lepidoptera.

Publication:

Sharma, Indu and Dhanze, R. 2012. Evaluation of macrobenthic fauna in hill stream environment of Western Himalaya, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 4 (9): 2875-2882.



Pika

Western Ghat Regional Centre, Kozhikode (Calicut)

The DNA barcoding of a new species of *Telenomus* (Platygastridae: Hymenoptera) from the eggs of mirid bugs on cashew was done in collaboration with the National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Insects (NBAIL), Bangalore, and a paper on the morphological and molecular characterization of the species has been finalized for publication. Besides, 4 species of Pteromalidae (Hymenoptera), 3 species of Ceraphronoidea (Hymenoptera), 3 species of Odonata, 6 species of Centipedes (Chilopoda) and 2 species of Reptilia were identified. Five species of Pteromalidae received from ZSI, Kolkata, 4 species of Pteromalidae from Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun and 20 species of Odonata from SRC, ZSI, Chennai, were also identified. The study on a collection of Mantidae from Jharkhand, India, was completed which includes a new record for the State.

During the month, a research paper on the distributional records of Genera of Scelionid (Hymenoptera: Platygastridae) egg parasitoids from South India was published; one accepted for publication and 4 communicated.

Four identification and advisory services were rendered.

Dr. K. Rajmohana, Scientist-C attended the "Scoping workshop on Canopy Research", the Preconference workshop of "Biodiversity Asia 2012", an international seminar/workshop, organized by the Society of Conservation Biology, Asia Conference at Atree, Bangalore, on 6th and 7th August. Dr. Muhamed Jafer Palot, Asst. Zoologist, attended a State Level Seminar on Mangrove Conservation at Papinisseri, Kannur, on 25th August, organized by the State Environment and Development Committee, Kerala Sasthrya Sahithya Parishad,

Thiruvananthapuram, and presented a paper on "Mangrove faunal diversity of Kerala". He also delivered a talk on "Amazing world of butterflies" to the students of *Scientia*, Science Club of Regional Science Centre & Planetarium, during their visit WGRC, ZSI, on 31st August. Dr. P. M. Sureshan, Scientist-C, attended the 2nd meeting of "Animal ethics committee" of Malabar Institute of Medical sciences (MIMS), Calicut, as member nominee. Dr. K. Rajmohana, Scientist-C served as an External Expert for M.Sc. Entomology Semester Examination, at Dept. of Zoology, University of Calicut on 23rd, August. Dr. Sureshan supervised the research project of a JRF and Dr. Rajmohana supervised the research projects of

the two JRFs of the Centre as well as those of two M. Sc. students from the Govt. College, Madappally, Kozhikode, attached to the Centre for their project work.

The Centre received 36 Type specimens of *Cremnochochus* spp. (Mollusca), from Dr. Aravind Madhyastha, ATREE, Bangalore.

During the month, 73 visitors paid their visits to the museum.

Publication:

K. Mahalakshmi S. Manickavasagam and K. Rajmohana, 2012. Distributional Records of Genera of Scelionid (Hymenoptera: Platygasteridae) Egg Parasitoids from South India. *Madras Agric. J.*, 99 (7-9): 576-579.

Insecta: Hymenoptera: Pteromalidae



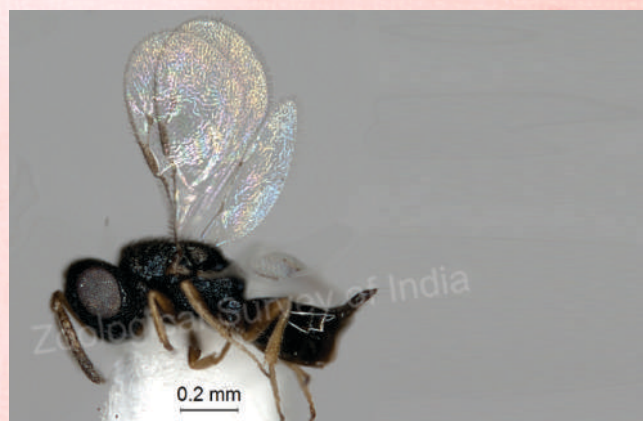
Cyrtoptis wayanadensis Sureshan



Theocolax elegans Westwood

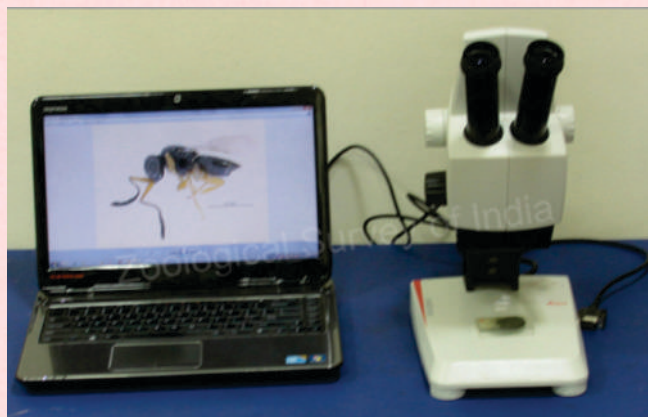


Dinarmus vagabundus Timberlake



Pachycrepoideus vindemmiae (Rondani)

Equipments added to WGRC/ZSI, Calicut



Leica EZ4HD 3.0 Mega Pixel Digital stereo Microscope with three way LED illumination system & Laptop computer



Canon colour Laser Printer



Canon EF100-400 Tele Lens

During the 66th Indian Independence Day celebrated at WGRC/ZSI, Calicut



ANIMAL OF THE MONTH

The Indian Kangaroo Lizard*Otocryptis beddomei* Boulenger, 1885

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

The Indian Kangaroo Lizard, *Otocryptis beddomei*, is a species of terrestrial agamid lizard endemic to the southernmost reaches of Western Ghats, south of Shenkottai gap. The species is distributed in the Thenmala Hills and Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) in Kollam district and Neyyar WLS, Peppara WLS and Ponmudi Hills in Thiruvananthapuram districts of Kerala and Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger reserves in Tamil Nadu. The species is named after Richard Henry Beddome, a British army officer (1830-1911) and botanist. The species is closely related to the Sri Lankan Kangaroo Lizard (*Otocryptis wiegmanni*) of the wet mountain forests of Sri Lanka. The Indian Kangaroo Lizard has a compressed body and its colour ranges from

dark reddish brown to dull brown. Males are darker than females. A dark oblique band running below the eye to the mouth is very distinct. The underside is whitish and young lizards have a brown throat. Adult body size is about 5 cms; tail: 7.6 cms. It is commonly seen amidst the leaf litter of shady rain forests. On perceiving danger, it spurts away quickly on its large hind legs and might eventually climb up a sapling or tree, hence the common name Kangaroo Lizard. It feeds on small insects, grubs and tender shoots. It lays between three to five eggs in a nest on the ground. It appears to be sensitive to human disturbance and not much has been studied on the ecology and biology of the species.

CHECKLIST OF INDIAN FAUNA

Botflies (Insecta: Diptera: Oestridae)<http://zsi.gov.in/checklist/CHECKLIST%20OF%20BOT%20FLIES.pdf>

OUT OF THE BOX

Vulture numbers rise in Girnar Hills

<http://www.downtoearth.org.in/content/vulture-numbers-rise-girnar-hills>

Nesting sites of estuarine crocodiles sighted in Bhitarkanika

<http://www.odishatv.in/NewsDetail.asp?newsId=NS62129>

PAINTINGS FROM ZSI HERITAGE ALBUM

Spotted deer (Chital)

Axis axis (Erxleben, 1777)

