

Vol.06 | No.03

# ZSI e-NEWS

Mar 2014

The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of Zoological Survey of India

*ZSI in the 99<sup>th</sup> year of Service to the Nation  
(1916 to 2014)*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

As a routine ongoing process, the Ministry of Environment & Forests each year brings out 'Animal discoveries' to be released in June on the occasion of World Environment Day. The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) plays a vital role in bringing out this publication by collating and compiling information about new faunal species discovered and new records reported from India. This time too, we have almost finalised the document by highlighting the discoveries made during 2013 to be showcased in the event. I hope many researchers and scientists working within and outside ZSI might have contributed for the document by sending their discoveries well in advance. We have decided to publish a

special issue of 'Animal Discoveries' targeting the our centenary celebrations sometime in 2016, wherein we will try to compile significant discoveries made in ZSI in the century with regard to faunal wealth of India. I would be grateful if you start compiling a list of species that you feel really significant and important in terms of Indian biodiversity. Apart from this, the need of the hour is to review certain groups as I mentioned in my previous message as not much information is available on many groups. Hence, I reiterate once again, that you should take up revisionary works of your group of interest.

Dr. K. Venkataraman  
Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata

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## HEADQUARTERS, KOLKATA

Extensive field surveys have been undertaken in the States of Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Arunachal Pradesh (Namdapha Tiger Reserve). Local surveys have also been conducted in the Indian Botanical Garden, Howrah. During the month, scientists of the Headquarters have identified 15 species of Protozoa, 2 species of Platyhelminthes, 11 species of earthworms, 1 species of polychaeta and 1 species of aquatic oligochaeta, 1 species of freshwater shrimp, 4 species of brachyuran crabs, 4 species of Collembola, 14 species of Hymenoptera, 31 species of Hemiptera, 9 species of Coleoptera, 3 species of Orthoptera, 11 species of Lepidoptera, 8 species of Fishes, 14 species of anurans (Amphibia) and 3 species of Mammals from Maharashtra, Tripura, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, Rajasthan and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Scientist of ZSI also have identified soil oribatid mites (Acari: Oribatida) belonging to 9 genera and 13 species of from Himachal Pradesh.

The species/subspecies *Pseudozumia indica indica* (de Saussure, 1855) (Hymenoptera: Vespidae: Eumeninae) has been recorded for the first time from the peninsular India (Kerala).

Identification and advisory services have been rendered on 25 lots of specimens received from different institutions and organizations. In addition to that, identification and advisory services have also been rendered on a query received from Dr. Ajay Srivastava, Principal Scientist, Entomology, Rice and Wheat Research Centre, Malan, HP; Dr. Debjani Das (Ghosh), Asstt. Prof, Department of Zoology,

Victoria College, Kolkata.

Scientist of ZSI also identified 16 examples under the family Carabidae, Coccinellidae, Hydrophilidae, Chrysomelidae, Scarabaeidae, Tenebrionidae; similarly they have also identified 12 nos. of rodent specimens as *Rattus rattus*, 4 nos. of Soricomorpha specimen as *Suncus murinus* and 2 squirrel specimen as *Funambulus palmarum* for one Dr. S.K. Gupta, Guest Faculty, Centre for Integrated Rural Development & Management (IRDM), Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, Narendrapur, West Bengal, identified and report submitted; Dr. Ranjit Kumar Khalwa, Asstt. Prof. and Head of the Department of Zoology, Narajole Raj College, Narajole, Paschim Medinipur, W.B. and Principal, Victoria Institution College, Kolkata have been provided with identification and advisory services by Hemiptera Section; Dr. Paulami Maiti, Prof. Lady Brabourne College also visited the Hemiptera Section. Shri. Sayani Pan, Sreerampur College, Hooghly, West Bengal visited Platyhelminthes Section. Students from Bangobase College, Kolkata visited the Mammal & Osteology Section on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2014. Dr. N. Premananda Singh, Asstt. Prof. Presidency College, Motbung, Manipur visited the Freshwater Fish Section, ZSI HQ and was provided with scientific guidance and laboratory facilities.

Training and Extension Division has organized a training workshop on "DSLR Macrophotography" from 6-7 March, 2014 at Annandale Hallat ZSI. Sixteen participants from ZSI Headquarters attended the training workshop. Mr. Aninda Basu and Mr. Soumyajit Moitra, Executive Technical Expert, Nikon India acted as the resource persons for both the theory and practical demonstrations during

the workshop. For practical session, all the participants were taken to Indian Botanical Garden at Howrah.

A group of scientists and scientific staffs have attended PAC meeting of East Zone w.r.t. NERC, Shillong and for Emeritus Scientists held on 20 March, 2014. A seminar on the "Need based Taxonomy for Conservation of Faunal Diversity" has been organized by ENVIS Center, Zoological Survey of India, HQ on 27 March, 2014 at ZSI, Kolkata.

Mr. M. Kamalakannan, Jr. Zool. Asstt. of Mammal & Osteology Section has presented a poster entitled '*Identification of Hairs of Indian Cervids*' in the international conference 'Student Conference on Conservation Science' held at the Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom from 25-27 March, 2014. The Department of Science & Technology (DST), and the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, together financially supported Mr. Kamalakannan's trip to the United Kingdom.

Dr. K. Venkataraman, Director, has dedicated the new G.P.R.C., ZSI office building at Patna, Bihar to the nation on 4 March, 2014. Dr. Venkataraman, also has attended a meeting of the All India Co-ordinated Project on Capacity Building in Taxonomy (AICOPTAX) at MoEF, New Delhi on 7 March, 2014. He also has attended a meeting under the Chairmanship of Shri. Shashi Sekhar, Additional Secretary MoEF, in order to finalise the draft audit para titled 'Activities of ZSI exploration, identification and monitoring of faunal diversity' at MoEF, New Delhi on 10 March, 2014. Dr. K. Venkataraman, Director, has attended a meeting regarding 'Brainstorming on Capacity Building' at MoEF on 14 March, 2014.

Dr. Kailash Chandra, Scientist-F and Additional Director has attended the

Inaugural function of the Office-cum-museum building of the Gangetic Plain Regional Centre, Patna on 4 March, 2014. Dr. Chandra, has attended the Inaugural Session of 'Training Workshop on DSLR Macro-photography' organised at Zoological Survey of India, New Alipore on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2014. Dr. Kailash Chandra, also has attended a meeting under the Chairmanship of Shri. Shashi Sekhar, Additional Secretary MoEF, in order to finalise the draft audit para titled 'Activities of ZSI exploration, identification and monitoring of faunal diversity' at MoEF, New Delhi on 10 March, 2014. Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Scientist-C has delivered a lecture to the students from Bangobase College, Kolkata on diversity of mammals in India when they visited Mammal & Osteology Section on 19 March, 2014.

Shri S. S. Mishra, Scientist-B has delivered a lecture on 'Marine Conservation - with special reference to Marine Interface of East Coast of India' at a workshop at Paradeep, Odisha organized by Fishery Survey of India, Vishakapatnam on 24 March, 2014. Dr. Jasmine. P, Scientist C, has attended a 10-day training programme on ciliate taxonomy at Department of Zoology, Andhra University, Visakapatnam from 26 March 2014 to 6 April, 2014. Mr. P.G.S. Sathy has attended the national seminar on "Current trends of Animal Science Research in India" at Department of Zoology, North Odisha University, Baripada, Odisha from 21-22 March, 2014.

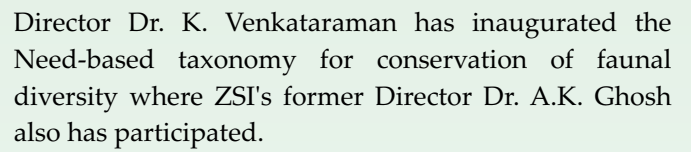
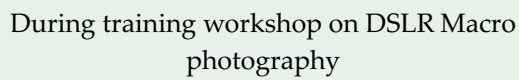
### **Publications**

- Acharya, S., and Bask, P. (2014) New records of soil oribatid mites (Acari: Oribatida) from Himachal Pradesh, India: Nine Genera and Thirteen species. *J. Exp. Zool. India*, 17(1): 91-96.
- Acharya. S., and Basu. P. (2014) Diversity and species richness of soil oribatid mites (Acari: Oribatida) in Dudhwa National



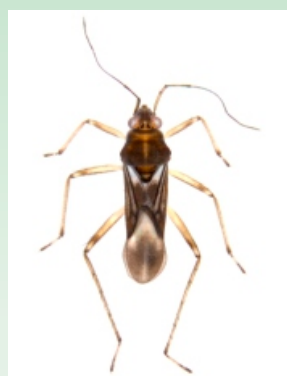
- Park, U.P., India, *J. Exp. Zool. India*, 17(1): 145-150.
- Akhilesh, K.V., Bineesh, K.K., Mishra, S.S., Ganga, U. and Pillai, N.G.K. (2014) Notes on the Indian swellshark, *Cephaloscyllium silasi* (Scyliorhinidae: Carcharhiniformes) from deep waters off the west coast of India. *Marine Biodiversity Records* Vol. 7; e25 (5 pages) [doi: 10.1017/S1755267214000141](https://doi.org/10.1017/S1755267214000141).
  - Chandra, K., Kushwaha, S., Biswas, B. and Mukherjee, P. (2014) Assassin Bugs (Reduviidae: Hemiptera) from Madhya Pradesh, India. *Journal of Entomology and Zoology Studies* 2(1): 38-50.
  - Chandra, K., and Kushwaha, S. (2014) Superfamily Coreoidea (Hemiptera) from Madhya Pradesh. *Bionotes* 16(1): 9-11.
  - Chandra, K. and Kushwaha, S., (2013) New records of Cassidinae (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) from Madhya Pradesh. *Natl. Wrshp. Biomol. Parasit. Res. Sust.*, 3-5 Dec. 2013. Pp. 47.
  - Chandra, K., and Kushwaha, S., (2013) On the collection of Hemiptera (Insecta) from Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir. *National journal of Life Sciences* 10(2): 193-194.
  - Girish Kumar, P., and Sharma, G. (2013) A taxonomic study on the genus *Rhynchium spinola* (hymenoptera: Vespidae: Eumeninae) from the Indian Subcontinent. *Rec. Zool. Surv. India*. 113(2): 105-122.
  - Hassan, M.E., and Biswas, B. (2014) Record on some Hemipteran fauna from the Sunderban Biosphere Reserve, West Bengal, India, *Bionotes* 16 (1): 29.
  - Jhamal, E.E. and Chandra, K. (2014) On the genus *Hydrometra* Latreille (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Hydrometridae) from India with description of two new species. *Zootaxa* 3779(5): 501-517.
  - Kumar, J., Basu, A., Roy and Mitra, B. (2014) Butterflies and Moths of Sunderban Biosphere Reserve, W.B. ENVIS Newsletter, Z.S.I., 20 (1&2): March, 2014 pp. 9-12.
  - Kushwaha, R.K. and Hegde, V. D. (2014). Study on the genus *Omphra dejen*, 1825 (Coleoptera: Carabidae ) from India: Souvenir of International seminar held on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2014 at Lucknow University, Lucknow, Pp. 56-61.
  - Majumdar, A. Raha, A. Mitra, B. Ghate, H.V. and Chandra. K. 2014. Long-horned Beetles (Coleoptera : Cerambycidae) from Chhattisgarh. India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 6(1): 5393-5399.
  - Mitra, B. (2014) Badaban. ENVIS Centre on faunal Diversity, ZSI. (Booklet published in Bengali)
  - Mitra, B. (2014) Carl Linnaeus. ENVIS Centre on faunal Diversity, ZSI. (Booklet published in Bengali)
  - Mitra, B., & Majumder, A. (2014) New records of longicorn beetles (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) from Arunachal Pradesh. *Bionotes* 16(1): 25-26.
  - Ray, D., Mishra, S.S. and Mahapatra, A. (2014) First record of Rama Rao's Scorpionfish (Scorpaenidae): *Scorpaeniopsis ramaraoi* Randall & Eschmeyer, 2001 from India. *Proc. Zool. Soc.*, [doi 10.1007/s12595-014-0099-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12595-014-0099-2)
  - Sharma, G., Kamalakannan, M. and Venkataraman, K. (2014) A Checklist of Mammals of India with their distribution and conservation status. ZSI e-publication (updated on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2014, [www.zsi.gov.in](http://www.zsi.gov.in)). Published by the Director, Zool. Surv. India, Kolkata-700 053, India. 123pp.
  - Shareef, K.P.M., Kishore, L., and Girish Kumar, P. (2013) New record of *Pseudozumia indica* (de Saussure, 1855) (Hymenoptera: Vespidae: Eumeninae) from Peninsular India. *Biological Forum – An International Journal* 5(2): 94-97.



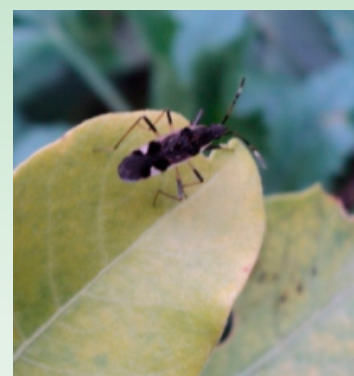




Dr. V. D. Hegde and R. K. Kushwaha attended an International Conference on Faunal Biodiversity and their Conservational Strategies held on 22nd and 23rd March, 2014 at Lucknow University, Lucknow.



*Mesovelvia horvathi*  
(Heteroptera:  
Mesovelidae)



Seed bug, *Metochus uniguttatus* in its natural habitat

## ANDAMAN & NICOBAR REGIONAL CENTRE, PORT BLAIR

During the month, faunal surveys have been conducted in marine and terrestrial ecosystems of North Bay, Haddo Warf, Rutland Island, Mount Harriet, Havelock Island and Peel Island besides local surveys in wetlands of South Andaman at different dates during 4-28 March 2014. A total of 385 species includes, 162 species of scleractinian corals, 7 species of octocorals, 1 species of polyclad, 4 species of sea anemones, 8 species of opisthobranchs, 4 species of echinoderms, 28 species of gastropods, 7 species of crabs, 6 species of ascidians and 76 species of fishes have been identified from marine habitat while, 16 species of butterflies, 8 species of insects, 9 species of reptiles and 49 species of birds have been identified/observed from terrestrial environments. Among them, scleractinian coral *Acropora cervicornis* (Lamarck, 1816), molluscs *Crenavolva tigris* Yamamoto, 1971 and *Epitonium billeanum* (Dushane & Bratcher, 1965) and fish *Aulostomus chinensis* (Linnaeus, 1766) are new records to Indian waters while the cephalopod *Octopus vitiensis* Hoyle, 1885 is

new to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Besides, a total of 96 specimens comprised of 51 specimens of corals, 25 specimens of molluscs, 5 specimens of ascidians, 4 specimens of sea anemones and each one specimen of odonate, diptera, lepidoptera, hymenoptera, reptile and mammal, and 4 specimens of aves have been registered in National Zoological Collections.

Five REIA reports on the biotic components in the project areas for the construction of Desalination Plant, CASU, Deficient single living accommodation, Extension of boundary wall and laying road in the Indian Coast Guard Complex at Diglipur, North Andaman have been submitted to the Military Engineering Services, Ministry of Defence, Government of India. Dr. C. Raghunathan, Scientist-C & Officer-in-Charge, has reviewed two manuscripts and offered the comments for *Indian Journal Geo-Marine Sciences*. Dr. C. Raghunathan has participated in the 'International Conference on Advanced Technologies for Management of Ballast water and Biofouling from 4-7 March, 2014' held at



NIOT, Chennai and presented a paper on 'Bio-invasion of snowflake coral *Carijoa riisei* in Indian Seas'; he also served as a member in the selection committee for the recruitment of LD Clerk at Fishery Survey of India, Port Blair on 26 March, 2014 and JRFs at ZSI, Port Blair on 27 March, 2014.

Dr. C. Sivaperuman, Scientist-C has delivered talks on 'Wildlife Census Techniques' in Forest Training School at South Andaman on 13 March, 2014, 'Ecosystem services of birds with special reference to avifauna of A&N Islands' on 14 and 20 March, 2014 for CPREEC, Port Blair, besides participating and presenting a paper in a national conference on 'Modern Trends in Zoological Research' held at St. Aloysius College, Trissur, Kerala during 25–26 March, 2014. He has also served as a member in the selection committee for the recruitment of Technical Assistant in BSI, Port Blair on 8 March, 2014 and member in purchase committee of RMRC-ICMR, Port Blair on the same date.

Mr. P.T. Rajan, Senior Zoological Assistant has delivered lectures on 'Faunal diversity of A&N Islands' at Forest Training College, South Andaman on 12 March, 2014 and 'Scheduled animal species of A&N Islands' for CPREEC, Port Blair on 14 and 20 March, 2014. Mr. Rajan has also been deputed to serve as a member of the committee constituted by

Department of Tourism, A&N Administration to inspect Scuba diving centres at Havelock and Neil Islands during March 2014.

### Publications

- Raghunathan, C., and Venkataraman, K. (2014) Invasion of snowflake coral *Carijoa riisei* (Duchassaing and Michelotti, 1860) in Indian Seas. *Proc. of International Conference on Advanced Technologies for Management of Ballast water and Biofouling (MABB 2014)* held at NIOT Chennai during 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2014, p. 30-31.
- Mondal, T., Raghunathan, C., and Venkataraman, K. (2013) Vulnerable Scleractinians corals from Andaman and Nicobar Islands. *Journal of Coastal Environment*, 4(1): 39-52.
- Sivaperuman, C., Dinesh, J., and Gokulakrishnan, G. (2013) Sighting of Pheasant-tailed Jacana (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus* Scopoli, 1758) from south Andaman. *Tigerpaper* 40(4) October-December: 13-17.
- Sivaperuman, C. (2014) Faunal diversity of Andaman and Nicobar Islands with special reference to avifauna. In: *Proceedings of the National Conference on Modern Trends in Zoological Research* held during 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at St. Aloysius College, Thrissur, Kerala. pp. 12.

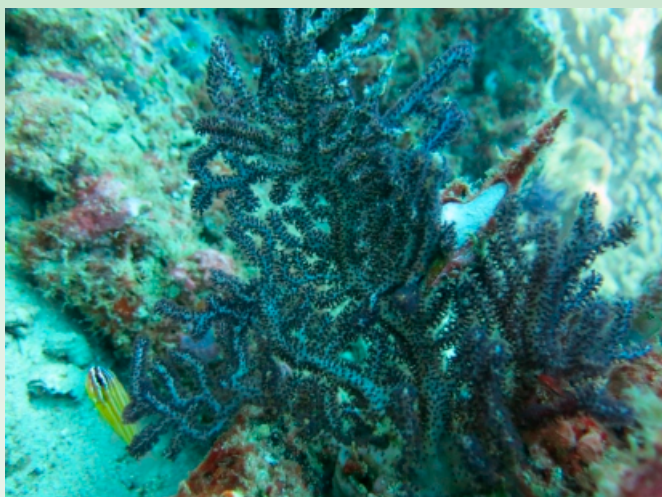


Coral *Tubastraea coccinea* Lesson, 1829



Coral *Tubastraea micranthus* (Ehrenberg, 1834)





Gorgonian *Euplexaura amerea* (Grasshoff, 1999)



Reef fish *Heniochus acuminatus*



School of reef fish *Lutjanus lunulatus* (Park, 1797)



School of reef fish *Lutjanus quinquelineatus* (Bloch, 1790)

## ESTUARINE BIOLOGY REGIONAL CENTRE, GOPALPUR-ON-SEA

During the month, 14 examples of molluscs, 1 slug, 1 bivalve and 12 gastropods belonging to 05 species under 06 genera and 05 families have been identified from the collections of Himachal Pradesh. A total of 69 specimens of aquatic Coleoptera belonging to 3 genus and 5 species and 7 specimen of aquatic Hemiptera belonging to 1 family 1 genus and 1 species have been identified from

the collections of Subadhra estuary and Rishikulya estuary surveys.

Three specimens belongs to aquatic Coleoptera pertaining to one family, one genus, and one species have been identified from the collections made at Surat, Gujarat during 4<sup>th</sup> Narmada and Tapi Estuary surveys. A total of 2 Crab species under 2 Families have been found from 3 examples collected

from Narayanpur and Haripur station, from 5<sup>th</sup> Subhadra estuary Survey. Ten museum specimens have been digitized. About 20 visitors have visited the National Zoological Collections at the Centre during March 2014.

Mr. A. Mohapatra, Scientist-B of the Centre has attended a meeting of Similipal Biosphere Reserve Management Council (SBRMC) on 20 March, 2014.



*Dineutus unidentatus* Aube

*Berosus indicus* Mostchulsky

*Berosus pulchellus* M'Leay

*Anisops bauvieri* Kirkaldy



*Varuna litterata* (Fab.)



*Uca lactea annulipes*, Milne-Edward

## WESTERN GHAT REGIONAL CENTRE, KOZHIKODE (CALICUT)

During the month, two new species of Platygastriidae (Insecta: Hymenoptera) viz. *Telenomus cuspis* sp. nov and *Trimorus* (*Neotrimorus*) and a new record of termite *Heterotermes indicola* have been published. Identification of the fauna during the month include 3 species of Mantodea (Insecta), 2

species of Scorpiones (Arachnida), 3 species of Dermaptera (Insecta) and 4 species of Platygastriidae (Hymenoptera) including a new species and 3 species of Reptilia. The description and illustration of a new species of *Platecrezotes* (Hymenoptera: Pteromalidae) parasitizing *Drosophila* sp. on bitter guard has



been completed. During the month, five identification and advisory services have been rendered to various persons and organizations. One survey to Mallana Reserve forests, Ernakulam, has been carried out on 13 & 14 March, 2014 conducted in search of the specimens of a rare scorpion genus described from the area.

Dr. Muhamed Jafer Palot, Asstt. Zoologist, has attended the First National Mission Meeting on the Conservation of Shark Species at the Animation Centre, Kovalam Trivandrum on 25 March, 2014 being organized jointly by the South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS), Humane Society International and C.P.R. Environmental Education Centre (CPREEC), Chennai as a representative of Zoological Survey of India. He also delivered a lecture on "Wildlife Conservation in India" during one-day seminar on 'Wildlife Wealth of India and their Conservation' organized in connection with the celebration of World Wildlife Day on 3 March, 2014 at the Wildlife Department, Farook College, Kozhikode being organized by the Kerala Forests & Wildlife Department. Dr. Palot also has delivered an invited talk on "Herpetofauna – population estimation and monitoring" at the two-day training programme on 'Wildlife Population Monitoring' for the field staff of Kerala Forests & Wildlife Department 6 March, 2014 at the Extension & Training Centre, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi, Thrissur. Dr. has delivered a talk on 'Faunal diversity of Kattampally-Kavvayi wetlands" at the one-day workshop on the Conservation and Management of Kattampally-Kavvayi Wetlands of North Kerala on 29 March, 2014 at the Conference Hall, Forest Complex, Kannotheumchal, Kannur being organized by the Kerala Forests & Wildlife Department &

Malabar Natural History Society.

Dr. K. Rajmohana, Scientist-C has served as an external examiner and conducted a practical examination on 'Systematics and Entomology' for M.Sc. students, at the Dept. of Zoology, University of Calicut. The centre has been awarded first prize for the significant contribution to Official language implementation during the year 2012-13 by the Town official language implementation committee (TOLIC) Kozhikode for the fourth consecutive year.

Dr. P. M. Sureshan, Scientist-C, has supervised a research projects of two research scholars of the Centre. Dr. K. Rajmohana, Scientist-C, also has supervised the research projects of four research scholars of the Centre for their doctoral degrees. During the month, 1517 visitors have paid their visits to the museum.

### Publications

- Poovoli, A., and Rajmohana, K. (2013). First record of *Heterotermes indicola* (Isoptera: Rhinotermitidae) from south India. *Insect Environment*, Vol. 19(3), 162.
- Rajmohana, K., Srikumar, P., Bhat, S., Raviprasad, T.N., and Jalali, S.K. (2013) A new species of platygastriid *Telenomus cuspis* sp. nov. (Hymenoptera), egg parasitoid of Tea mosquito bug from India, with notes on its bionomics and mtCo1 data, *Oriental Insects*. 47 (4) 226-232.
- Veenakumari, K., Rajmohana, K., and Mohanraj, P. (2014) A new species of *Trimorus* (*Neotrimorus*) (Hymenoptera: Platygastriidae) from Andaman Islands, India. *Journal of Biological Control*, 27(4): 243-246.
- Palot, M.J. (2014) *Uragangal: Mannuliyyum iruthalayan Pambum* (Reptiles: Sand Boas) *Koodu- An environmental Magazine in Malayalam*. 1(11): 40.



*Heterometrus scaber* (Thorell)  
(Arachnida : Scorpiones)



*Heterometrus barberi* (Pocock)  
(Arachnida : Scorpiones)



*Hottentotta rugiscutis*  
(Arachnida : Scorpiones)



*Hapalopeza nilgirica* Wood-Mason (Insecta-Mantodea)



Gunther's wine snake – *Ahaetulla dispar*



Jungle Nightjar – *Caprimulgus indicus*



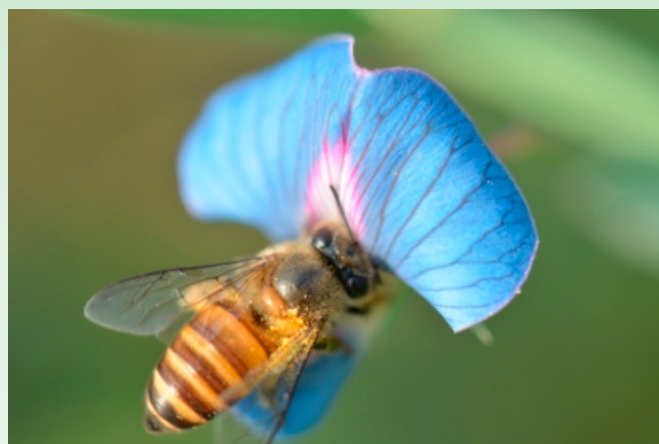
Award for Hindi implementation 2012-13



## SUNDERBANS REGIONAL CENTRE, CANNING

Ten specimens of insects have been identified and registered by the scientists of this Centre, which includes, 4 specimens of Orthoptera belonging to 4 species under 4 Family, 02 specimens of Lepidoptera under 1 Family, and 4 specimens of Odonata belonging to 3 species under 1 Family.

*Apis dorsata*



## NORTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE, DEHRADUN

The scientists of the Centre have identified 3 species of Reptilia, 2 species of Amphibia, 28 species of Lepidoptera and 12 species of soil Nematodes from Punjab; 3 species of Reptilia and 30 species of soil Nematodes from Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary and National Park; 9 species of soil Nematodes from Govind WLS (Uttarakhand); 2 species of Amphibia, 6 species soil Nematodes from Dehradun.

DNA has been extracted by Phenol-Chloroform method (Sambrook & Russel, 2001) from 7 samples of 3 species namely, *Delias eucharis* (Drury), *Borbo cinnara* (Wallace) and *Sarangesa dasahara* Moore ). -DNA quantified by Qubit -2 Florimeter.

700bp Amplicon of COI gene using Universal primers have been obtained from 4 samples of 2 species namely, *Delias eucharis* (Drury) and *Borbo cinnara* (Wallace) and amplicons of 400 bp of 12SrRNA gene obtained from *Felis sylvestris*.Schreber. Medulla slides have been prepared for three species of Lesser cats for trichotaxonomy and 440 permanent slides of

nematodes collected from Punjab, Sultanpur NP, Dehradun and Govind WLS surveys have been made besides 40 exs of permanent slides prepared for helminths collected from Punjab for morphological studies.

During the month, we have registered 85 exs of soil nematodes, 144 exs of Lepidoptera, 7 exs of Acridoidea, 44 exs of Amphibia and 25 exs of Reptilia. Ten database entries of nematodes and 70 of Lepidoptera have been made in the invertebrate database. Digitization of Amphibia with 60 images have been made and their metadata entered.

Dr. Archana Bahuguna, Scientist-C, has presented a lecture besides the practical demonstration of trichotaxonomy on 'Trichotaxonomy and molecular study as tools and techniques for Wildlife forensic.' organized by Gurukul Kangri University, Haridwar on 4<sup>th</sup> March in workshop titled Taxonomic keys and identification tools of different groups of flora and fauna including the molecular tools (3-8 March 2014)

sponsored by Uttarakhand Science and Technology.

Drs. Archana Bahuguna and A.N. Rizvi, Scientist-C of the Centre have attended a conference on "Rebuilding Uttarakhand- The sustainable way", being organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry on 11 March, 2014 at Dehradun.

Dr. Archana Bahuguna, Scientist-C has presented a oral presentation on "Trichotaxonomy and molecular study of lesser cats *Prionailurus viverrinus*, *Felis chaus*, *Felis marmorata*, *Felis temmenkii* (Mammalia: Carnivora: Felidae)" and Dr. A. N. Rizvi, Scientist-C has presented a talk on "Studies on the Helminth parasites of Amphibia in Dehradun (Uttarakhand), India" in the International Conference on Faunal Biodiversity and their Conservational Strategies held at Lucknow University on 22-23 March, 2014.

Dr. Vinita Sharma, Scientist-C has presented a lecture and did practical demonstration during national workshop on 'Recent Advances in Nematode Taxonomy (RANT-2014)' from 25-31, March, 2014 being held in the Department of Zoology, C.C.S. University, Meerut.

### **Publications**

- Bahuguna, A. (2013) Reptilia. In: Fauna of Kalesar National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, Haryana. Conservation Area Series no 48. Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.91-100.
- Bahuguna, A., and Bhutia, P.T. (2013) Amphibia. In: Fauna of Kalesar National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, Haryana. Conservation Area Series no 48. Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.101-113.
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- Rizvi, A. N., And Bhutia, P.T. (2013) Helminth Parasites of Amphibia: In: Fauna of Kalesar National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, Haryana, Conservation Area Series no 48, Zoological Survey of India Kolkata, 205-213.
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- Sharma, V. (2014) Plant and Soil Nematodes: Collection, Preservation and Identification. In Workshop Manual: National Workshop on Recent Advances in Nematode Taxonomy (25-31 March, 2014) in Department of Zoology, Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut.
- Tak, P. C., Sati, J.P. and Bhutia, P. T. (2013) Fauna of Kalesar National Park & Wildlife Sanctuary: An Overview. Pp. 1-7 + I-XI colour plates. In *Fauna of Kalesar National Park & Wildlife Sanctuary, Conservation Area Series*, 48: 1-213. (Published by the Director, Zool. Surv. India, Kolkata).
- Sati, J. P. and Tak, P. C. (2013). Mammalia. Pp. 9-33. In *ibid*.
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## MARINE AQUARIUM & REGIONAL CENTRE, DIGHA

Our aquariums have received tourists in an average of 520 per day. In total, 42 live specimens have been released in the aquarium in March 2014. During the month, a total of 146 specimens have been identified, which includes 60 (21 species) of mollusk and 86 (11 species) of fish. Among the identified specimens *Neenchelys cheni* (Chen and Weng, 1967) is recorded for the first time from Indian coast. One species *Trichonotus cyclograptus* Alcocok, 1890 has been rediscovered after 123 years.

Mrs. Irina K. Bashkirova, Consul General of Russian Federation in Kolkata has visited the marine aquarium at this Centre during. Students of Yogoda Satsanga Palpara Mahavidyalaya, Purbamedinipur, West Bengal and students from Zoology Dept. of Raja Narendralal Khan Women's College have visited our aquariums. Around 100 school students from West Midnapure district have visited the Centre and the aquarium as part of their study camp being organized by WWF-West Bengal.

### Publications

- Tudu, P.C., and Ray, D. (2014) New record of Ornamental gastropod Major harp, *Harpa major* (Mollusca: neogastropoda: Harpidae) from Offshore coast of Odisha, *Bionotes* 16(1): 20.
- Ray, D., Mishra, S.S., Mohapatra, A (2014) First record of Rama Rao's Scorpion fish, *Scorpaenopsis ramaraoi* Randall and Eschmeyer, 2001 (Family: Scorpaenidae) from Indian waters" *Proceedings of Zoological Society* (DOI: [10.1007/s12595-014-0099-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12595-014-0099-2)). (Publisher: Springer).



During the visit of Mrs. Irina K. Bashkirova, Consul General of Russian Federation in Kolkata



◀ *Neenchelys cheni* (Chen and Weng, 1967)



▲ *Trichonotus cyclograptus* Alcocok, 1890

## FRESHWATER BIOLOGY REGIONAL CENTRE, HYDERABAD

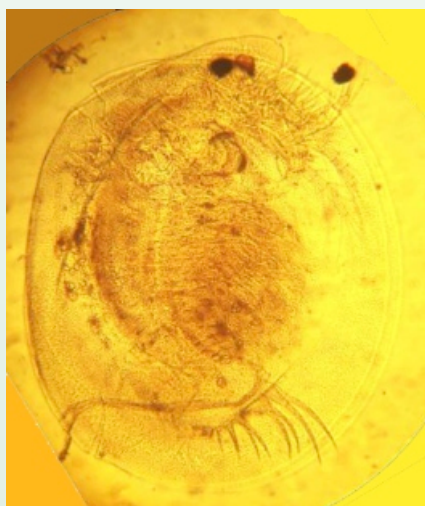
The Centre has conducted one faunal survey in the wetlands situated in Nizamabad and Medak Dists., of Andhra Pradesh for a period of 4 days from 27-30 March, 2014 and collected 21 zooplankton samples from 9 locations.

The scientists of the Centre have examined 245 examples of recent freshwater faunal samples collected from various wetlands of Andhra Pradesh and identified as 12 species of mollusks viz. *Lymnaea acuminata*, *Melanoides tuberculata*, *Indoplanorbis exustus*, *Bellamya dissimilis*, *Bellamya bengalensis* r. *doliaris*, *Bellamya crassa*, *Pila virens*, *Bellamya bengalensis* f. *annandalei*, *Bellamya bengalensis* f. *eburnean*, *Perreysia caerulea*, *Perreysia favidens* sub sp. *deltae*, *Perreysia favidens*; one species of Ostracod *Cypris subglobosa* and one species of brachiopod *Cyclestheria hislopi*.

As a part of the digitisation of the freshwater fauna, 24 specimens digitized pertaining to 12 species of Molluscs, one species of ostracod and one species of Brachiopod. As far identification and advisory services concerned the scientists of the centre have identified 11 species of aquatic Dytiscidae and Hydrophilidae from the collections brought by Mr. Geobye George, Research scholar, Amaravati University and identified 10 species of aquatic insects from Kerala collected by Ms. Rakhi, Research scholar, Cochin University, Kerala.

### Publication

- Rao. D.V. and Rath, S. (2014) Fauna of brahmani-Baitarani Estuarine Complex, Odisha, Bay of Bengal w.s.r to ichthyofauna and crustaceans. *Ecosystem Series*, 7:1-120.



Brachiopod – *Cyclestheria hislopi*



Brachiopod – *Cypris globosa*



*Lymnaea acuminata* form typica

## ARUNACHAL PRADESH REGIONAL CENTRE, ITANAGAR

During the month, Dr. Bikramjit Sinha Scientist-C & Officer-in-Charge has led a survey tour to Lower Dibang Valley district

from 13-21 March, 2013. During the survey, 18 water samples for zooplankton studies have been collected. Besides representative



examples of other faunal groups including 616 exs of fish and 9 exs of amphibians including a large tree frog (*Rhacophorus maximus*) have also been collected. The also has recorded 3 reptile species including one Indian Garden lizard (*Calotes versicolor*); about a dozen avian species including Black Eagles (*Ictinaetus malayensis*), jungle crows (*Corvus macrorhynchos*), White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) and Lesser Coucal (*Centropus bengalensis*); also sighted a species of jungle cat and an Orange-bellied Himalayan squirrel (*Dremomys lokriah*) and a species of deer (hoof marks).

In addition, 51 examples of invertebrates have been collected including 35 examples of Butterflies, 4. examples of moths, 6 examples of grasshoppers, 3 examples of hymenopterans, 3 examples of Spiders.



Fish sampling



Zooplankton sampling



Sally lake, Roing

*Lepidocephalichthys arunachalensis* Dutta, (Hamilton, 1822)



*Garra arunachalensis* Nebeshwar & Vishwanath, 2013



*Parachiloganis hodgarti* (Hora 1923)

## CENTRAL ZONE REGIONAL CENTRE, JABALPUR

During the month, scientists of this regional Centre have identified and registered 16 species of moths (Lepidoptera), 8 species of Hemiptera and 3 species of small mammals from Madhya Pradesh. One field survey has been conducted from Dongergaon Range of Nauradesh Wildlife Sanctuary, district Narsingpur of Madhya Pradesh. Identification and advisory services have been rendered to: (i) Dr. Varsha Zade, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, Govt. Vidarbha Institute of Science & Humanities, Amravati, for identification of bones samples isolated from pellets of Spotted Owlet and was identified into 4 species and 3 genera under two families; (ii). Dr. B. M. Parasharya, Research Scientist (Ornithology), AINP on Agricultural Ornithology, Anand Agricultural University, Anand, Gujarat for identification of Photographs of Odonata and all have been identified into 6 sps. (19 photo). The identification reports have been sent to the respective institute/university.

### Publications

- Chandra, K., and Gupta, D. (2014) Studies on Tribe Gymnopleurini (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae) from Madhya

Pradesh and Chhattisgarh with A Checklist from India has now been published in the following paginated issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, India Section B: Biological Sciences: Volume 84, Issue 2 (2014), Page 317-330.

- Gupta, D. (2014) Diversity of Dung Beetles (Scarabaeinae: Scarabaeinae: Coleoptera) in Protected Areas of Madhya Pradesh (Central India) with notes on Guild Type, Flight Activity, Seasonal Availability and Food Preference. Abstract published in 29<sup>th</sup> M. P. Young Scientist Congress, February 28- March 1, 2014, Life Sciences: 85.
- Gupta, D., Chandra, K., and Khan, S. (2014) Dung Beetle Genus *Onthophagus* Latreille (Onthophagini: Scarabaeinae: Scarabaeidae: Coleoptera: from Madhya Pradesh, India. Abstract published in "International Conference on Faunal Diversity and their Conservation Strategies, March 22-23, 2014" organized by Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow, Lucknow, U.P. India. BEP114: 111
- Chandra, K., and Kushwaha, S. (2014) Superfamily Coreoidea (Hemiptera) from Madhya Pradesh. *Bionotes*, **16**: 9-11.



## DESERT REGIONAL CENTRE, JODHPUR

During the month, scientists of the Centre have identified and registered 2 species of ants and 5 species of fish from the jurisdiction area. Also digitized 10 specimens from NZC for RFD. Dr. H.S. Banyal, Scientist-C has conducted survey a under the research programme on studies on State Fauna of Rajasthan - Gaps in Research of Pratapgarh, Dungarpur and Banswara districts of Rajasthan from 8-17 March, 2014. Twenty-seven localities in aforesaid districts have been extensively surveyed for fauna and GPS data recorded. Around 124 lots comprising of 942 examples of different faunal groups have been collected during the survey.

Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Scientist C and Officer-in-charge of the Centre has acted as special

invitee in the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Rajasthan State Biodiversity Board, Jaipur on 21 March, 2014 at Jaipur. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, also has prepared and submitted proposal to carry out faunal studies in respect of EIA/EMP of Kapurdi Lignite Mine of Barmer District, Rajasthan belonging to Barmer Lignite Mining Company Ltd. Dr. Kumar, also has conducted a quarterly workshop on Official Language-Hindi on 26 March, 2014 at the Centre. All the staff members and officers have participated in aforesaid workshop.

### Publication

- Banyal, H. S. and Kumar, S. (2014) Ichthyofaunal diversity of the Angore Dam, Sirohi City, Rajasthan. *Bionotes* 16(1): 21-22.

## MARINE BIOLOGY REGIONAL CENTRE, CHENNAI

Extensive field survey has been conducted in sea grass as well as coral reef ecosystem in Palk Bay and Islands of Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve and representative samples have been collected. Scientists of this Centre have identified three species of Nematodes, six species of Protozoans out of the materials collected from Palkbay. Nine species have been digitized and their metadata compiled. Dr. C. Venkatraman, Scientist-C & Officer-in-Charge has attended an Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC) meeting at Sri Ramachandra Medical University as external scientist being nominated by the Animal Welfare Division, MoEF, New Delhi.

A rapid EIA proposal on the construction of Beach Main Hole (BMH) around 500m and 50m on either side of cable laid at Santhome

beach, Chennai has been submitted to the Environment Quality Management Pvt Ltd, Delhi as requested. Dr. G. Sivaleela, Scientist-B has rendered identification services to the research scholars of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Nagarkoil regarding marine sponges. Drs. C. Venkatraman and Rajkumar Rajan have supervised the research projects of SRF's of the Centre. During the month, around 688 tourists have visited the marine aquarium and museum.

### Publication

- Ranju, R., Bindu, L., and Jayaprakas, V. (2013) Reports of some free living protozoans from Vembanad lake, an important Ramsar site, Kerala, India. *J. Environ. & Sociobiol.* 10(2): 109-112.

*Ephippus orbis**Gymnosarda unicolor*

## GANGETIC PLAINS REGIONAL CENTRE, PATNA

New office-cum-laboratory building of ZSI, GPRC, Patna has been inaugurated by Dr. (Mrs.) R. Dalwani, Advisor, MoEF, New Delhi on 4 March, 2014. The other dignitaries who have participated in the inauguration include Shri B.N. Malhotra, Chief Engineer, CCU, MoEF, New Delhi, Dr K. Venkataraman, Director, Zoological Survey of India and Dr Kailash Chandra, Additional Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata. Dr Navneet Singh, Scientist-C has guided Mr. Harkanwal Singh, Junior Research Fellow of Department of Zoology & Environmental Sciences, Punjabi University, Patiala regarding the taxonomy of 80 species of family

Noctuidae for his Ph.D thesis. He was on official visit to the Centre from 19 March, 2014 to 3 April, 2014.

### Publications

- Kirti, J.S., Singh, N. and Joshi, R. (2014) Taxonomic studies on three *Caeneressa* species (Lepidoptera: Syntominiæ) from India with special reference to their external genitalia. *Animal Systematics, Evolution and Diversity* 30 (1): 33-38.
- Kirti, J.S., Singh, N. and Joshi, R. (2014) A new species of genus *Capissa* Moore (Lepidoptera: Erebidæ: Arctiinae) from India. *Annales Zoologici* 64 (1): 45-49.



Dr. (Mrs.) Dalwani, Advisor, MoEF has inaugurated the new office-cum-laboratory building of GPRC, ZSI at Patna, in the presence of Dr. K. Venkataraman, Director, ZSI and Dr. Gopal Sharma, Scientist-C & Officer-in-Charge, and other staff of GPRC.



## WESTERN REGIONAL CENTRE, PUNE

During the month, scientists of the Centre have identified 04 species of Scarabaeidae, 16 species of Coccinellidae, 02 species of Collembola, 10 species of Hymenoptera, 24 species of Lepidoptera, 13 species of Odonata, 01 species of crab, 17 species of Mollusca, 09 species of Amphibia and 12 species of Pisces. One local tour to Paud and nearby areas in Pune district has been conducted to collect fish specimens for DNA study.

Identification and identification services have been rendered to the Principal, Kisan Arts, Commerce & Science College, Parola, Maharashtra; Mrs. A.B. Sarwade, Department of Zoology, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Maharashtra; Mrs. S.S. Sakhare, Department of Zoology, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Maharashtra for identification of freshwater Mollusca and identification of crabs; fish specimens have been identified for Dr. D. V. Muley, Professor, Dept. of Zoology, Shivaji University, Kolhapur; Dr. Ashish Tiple, Asstt. Professor and Head, Dept. of Zoology, Vidyabharathi College, Seloo, Wardha, Maharashtra; Shri. Sanjay Khodake, Asstt. Professor, A.M.P. College, Pimpalner, Dist. Dhule. Identification reports have been sent to the concerned accordingly.

Dr. S. K. Pati, Sr. Zool. Asstt. Has attended CEPF/IUCN Freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas in Tamil Nadu during a workshop at Keystone Foundation, Kotagiri, Tamil Nadu

from 7-9 March, 2014. Shri. S. R. Patil, Asstt. Zoologist has participated in Hindi Rajbhasha Meeting held on 20 March, 2014 at National Institute of Virology, Pune. During the month, 42 students have visited our museum.

### Publication

- Jadhav, M., Mahabal, A., Desai, V. & Shrivastav, J. (2014). A case of total albinism in Common Kukri Snake *Oligodon arnensis* (Colubridae) with an unusual colour pattern. *Reptile Rap*, 16: 3-5.



A troop of Bonnet macaques



*Mystus malabaricus* Jerdon



*Oryctes rhinoceros* (Linnaeus)

## NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL CENTRE, SHILLONG

During the month, a field survey has been conducted in Nongkhyllem Wildlife Sanctuary and its adjoining areas, Ri-Bhoi district, Meghalaya from 10-14 March, 2014 to study the ichthyofauna diversity of the area. Representative collections of 215 specimens of fishes, 125 specimens of aquatic and semi-aquatic insects, 6 specimens of crustaceans (prawns), 15 specimens of decapoda (crabs), 1 specimens of reptile and 4 specimens of mollusca have been made. The collected specimens of various groups have been entered in the unidentified registers and allotted with registration numbers.

Twenty-three examples of aquatic and semi-aquatic Hemiptera belonging to 5 species as *Ptilomera* (*Ptilomera*) *laticaudata* (Hardwicke), *Metrocoris nigrofasciatus* Distant, *Cercotmetus pilipes* (Dallas), *Laccotrephes pfeiferiae* (Ferrari) and *Gestroiella insignis* Distant have been identified from the backlog collections.

Seven specimens of mammals belonging to three species namely *Berylmys Mackenziei* (Thomas), *Niviventer niviventer* (Hodgson) and *Rattus rattus* (Linnaeus) under the order Rodentia and family Muridae have been digitised and their metadata entered.

Two lots of fish specimens, one from St. Anthony's college, Shillong and the other from Gauhati University, Assam have been received for identification.

The Centre has participated and set up a stall exhibiting interesting fauna of North East India at the Annual Science and Environmental Fair-2014 being organized by the State council of Science, Technology and Environment, Meghalaya, Shillong at the Bharat Scouts and Guides premises at Laban on 13 & 14 March, 2014. Mrs. J. Lyngdoh, Scientist-C and Officer-in-Charge of the Centre has attended the meeting at HQ ZSI, Kolkata from 19-21 March, 2014.



Development of tadpoles in their natural habitat in Ummluh river, Nongkhyllem wildlife sanctuary.



Collection site at Ummar river, Ri-Bhoi district, Meghalaya.





Burning of forests along the hills for jhum cultivation.



Portion of Umtrew river, in Nonkhyllem Wildlife Sanctuary.

## HIGH ALTITUDE REGIONAL CENTRE, SOLAN

Faunistic identification from the Centre includes 03 species of butterflies (out of 6 examples), 01 species of Pisces (out of 02 examples) from Cold desert of Spiti Valley and Chandertal Lake, District Lahaul and Spiti, (HP); 02 species of earthworms (out of 17 examples), 03 species of butterflies (out of 20 examples), 04 species of Orthoptera (out of 9 examples), 02 species of Pisces (out of 04 examples) from Chail WLS distt Solan; 03 species of Pisces (out of 06 examples) from Haryana and 02 species of Pisces (out of 03 examples) from Sukhna lake Chandigarh.

The first galley proof of document on Faunal Diversity of Churdhar Wildlife Sanctuary has been corrected and submitted for publication. Chapters on Lepidoptera and Annelida are being written by Scientists of the Centre as assigned by DZSI for the proposed book on Animal Resources of India. Around, 129 school students of B.L. Sr. Sec. School, Solan visited the museum of the Centre from 3-5 March, 2014 and scientists of the Centre have delivered four lectures on different aspects of the faunal diversity. Quarterly Hindi meeting

has been held on 31 March, 2014 to assess Hindi progress in the Centre.

A scientist undertook a survey to Pong Dam Wetland from 21-23 March, 2014 for the limnological studies as per the request of DFO, Wildlife Division, Hamirpur (H.P.). A scientist from the Centre has attended the district level training/sensitization workshop for the law enforces (COPTA-2003) under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner on 7 March, 2013 at D.C. Office, Solan.

A scientist of the Centre has identified 77 field photographs of birds and some foot prints of mammals received from the Officer-in-Charge, APRC, Itanagar. Identification and advisory services regarding 'birds of Himachal Pradesh' have been extended to a college teacher of Himachal Pradesh by the scientist of the Centre. The work of Himalayan faunal repository under the guidance of DZSI at HARC, ZSI, Solan (H.P.) has been initiated and also submitted a broad layout of the repository including the diagrams to the Civil Construction Unit of MoEF.

## Publication

- Kumar, A. (2014) Conservation issues and possible solutions for sustainability of faunal diversity of Arunachal Pradesh, pp. 243-261. *In* Management of water, energy and bio-resources in the era of climate

change: Emerging issues and challenges (eds. N. Janardhana Raju, Wolfgang Gossel, A. Ramanathan and M. Sudhakar). Jointly published by Capital Publishing Co., New Delhi, and Springer, India, p. 364.



## SOUTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE, CHENNAI

During the month, one faunistic survey has been conducted to Nilgiri and Thiruvannamalai districts of Tamil Nadu from 21-28 March, 2014 by Dr. Jayasree Thilak and collected 45 lots of zooplankton samples. Dr. R. Babu, Scientist-C has identified 24 specimens of Odonata belonging to 10 species, 9 genera, 1 order under 3 families from the earlier and recent surveys from Javadi Hills, Tamil Nadu and Pallikaranai Marsh, Chennai. Dr. Jayasree Thilak, Scientist-C has identified 25 exs of Rotifera belonging to 8 species, 4 genera, 1 order, 3 families and 20 exs of Cladocera belonging to 7 species, 6 genera, 1 order, 3 families from the zooplankton samples collected from the different localities of Trichy and Nilgiri districts of Tamil Nadu. Dr. S. Prabakaran, Scientist-C has identified 17 exs. of blattids under 4 families and 3 genera

collected from Andhra Pradesh survey.

Dr. R. Aengals, Scientist-C has proceeded on a survey tour to Nalgonda, Khammam, East Godavari and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh from 31 March, 2014 to 17 April, 2014. Shri. D. Prabhakar, Assistant Zoologist has identified 653 specimens of Acridomorpha (grasshoppers) and identified as 14 different species under 13 genera, 10 subfamilies and 2 families from south Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu. Dr. V. M, Sathish Kumar, Assistant Zoologist has identified and processed 3 specimens for DNA studies and proceeded on a 10 days faunal survey tour to Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve from 28 March, 2014 to 6 April, 2014.

Dr. R. Babu, Scientist-C has rendered identification and advisory services to two M.Sc. students of Queen Mary's College,



Chennai. He also extended identification services on 38 species of Odonates received from Department of Zoology and Environmental Sciences, Punjabi University, Patiala. Dr. R. Aengals, Scientist-C has rendered identification services on 15 Reptile and Amphibian specimens to a research scholar, Dept. of Zoology, Loyola college, Chennai. He also rendered identification services to Shri. Surjit Bhujabal, IRS, Additional Director General, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India on photographs of Kerala Shieldtail Snake *Uropeltis ceylonica*.

Dr. V. M. Sathish Kumar, Assistant Zoologist has provided DNA Barcoding protocol on Squillids to Ms. Nandini, M.Sc Student from Madras Christian College, Chennai. During

the month, O&M inspection has been carried out by Dr. Subba Rao, Director (HSMD) and Shri. V. Nagarajan, Section Officer (Vigilance) from the Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi on 19 & 20 March, 2014. Dr. K. Ilango, Scientist-D & Officer-in-Charge of the Centre has delivered an invited lecture on 'Human Health in Natural Forests Management on 3 March, 2014 at "National Workshop on Forestry Research' being organized by the Tamil Nadu State Forestry Research Institute, Chennai.

#### Publication

- Thilak, J. (2013) Some rotifers recorded from Madhya Pradesh, India. *National Journal of Life Science* 10(2): 209-213.

## ANIMAL OF THE MONTH

### Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelanos lathami* (J.E. Gray, 1829)

The Kalij Pheasant (*Lophura leucomelanos*) is a pheasant found in forests and thickets, especially in the Himalayan foothills, from the Himalayas of Nepal to western Thailand. And the one that we have photographed in Pakke Tiger Reserve of



Text Imran Alam and Photo G. Maheswaran,  
Bird Section, HQ office, ZSI, Kolkata

Arunachal Pradesh is of a sub-species *lathami*; where the males have uniform black including the underparts in contrast to whole brown females. Often seen in pairs, found gleaning the forest floors for insects, small reptiles and sometimes berries and take off

when approached at close quarters. There are nine recognized sub-species in the wild and the males are rather variable in colour depending upon the subspecies involved, but all mostly having at least partially glossy bluish-black plumage.

However, in all sub-species females are brownish altogether. Both sexes have a bare red face and greyish legs with strong feet for scrapping the ground in search of food. Though common everywhere but hunted for its egg and meat.

**OUT OF THE BOX****Six lakh Olive Ridley hatchlings find their way to the sea**

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/six-lakh-olive-ridley-hatchlings-find-their-way-to-the-sea/article5889015.ece?homepage=true>

**Birds may help us fight heart attacks, strokes**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/science/Birds-may-help-us-fight-heart-attacks-strokes/articleshow/34069611.cms>

**3-million-year old green landscape found beneath ice sheet**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/the-good-earth/3-million-year-old-green-landscape-found-beneath-ice-sheet/articleshow/33970912.cms>

**15 Indian bird species among globally endangered**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/flora-fauna/15-Indian-bird-species-among-globally-endangered/articleshow/33943277.cms>

**OBITUARY****Late Shri Daniel Lawrence**

(26.07.1975 – 17.03.2014)

Shri Daniel Lawrence was born on 26 July, 1975 and initially joined at the Central Zone Regional Centre, Jabalpur on 8 January, 2001 as watchman on compassionate grounds due to the demise of his father Late Shri E.P. Das, Ex-Motor Driver. Mr. Daniel was later, promoted as Laboratory Attendant on 22 September, 2011. He worked in various capacities and assisted



various tour parties and survey teams. He was very cordial to all staffs of this Regional Centre and keen in doing his allocated works with patience and was having smooth approach with all officers and staff of ZSI. Unfortunately, his sudden demise on the early morning of 17 March, 2014 at his residence stunned the entire ZSI fraternity.