

FAUNA OF INDIA CHECKLIST

JULY, 2024

ONLINE VERSION 1.0



PHORONIDA

Tamal Mondal^{1,2,*} and C. Raghunathan^{1,3}

¹Zoological Survey of India, M-Block, New Alipore, Kolkata-700053, ²t_genetics@yahoo.com; <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-4966-6746>, ³raghuks@rediffmail.com; <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-1417-5496>,
*Correspondence author email id: t_genetics@yahoo.com

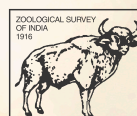
DOI : <https://doi.org/10.26515/Fauna/1/2023/Phoronida>

Key words: Horse-shoe worms, Sedentary, Lophopores

Citation: Mondal, T. and Raghunathan, C. (2024). Fauna of India Checklist: Phoronida. Version 1.0. Zoological Survey India. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26515/Fauna/1/2023/Phoronida>

Comments on the checklist:
E-mail your comments
and suggestions to improve
the checklist to

zsifaunachecklists@gmail.com;
t_genetics@yahoo.com



ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

PHORONIDA

Tamal Mondal^{1,2,*} and C. Raghunathan^{1,3}

¹Zoological Survey of India, M-Block, New Alipore, Kolkata-700053, ²t_genetics@yahoo.com; <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-4966-6746>, ³raghuks@rediffmail.com; <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-1417-5496>, *Correspondence author email id: t_genetics@yahoo.com

Introduction: The faunal communities under the Phylum Phoronida are commonly known as Horse-shoe worms. They are sedentary animals living in borrows and tubes structure. The body divided in to two parts consists of a bunch of lophopores and anus. External part of the body has no coating but they form a rigid chitinous tube and they can grow up to 2 to 20 cm long and 1.5 mm width. They follow hermaphroditic or dioecious mode of reproductive process to complete its life cycle and produce actinotroch larvae.

Global diversity: The phylum comprises of only 13 described species.

Diversity in India: A total of only three species (two species level and one genus level) belonging to 2 genera of family Phoronidae are recorded.

Diversity in States: Presented in table 1.

Table 1: Phoronida of India, State-wise distribution

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Species
	INDIA TOTAL	3
1.	Gujarat	2
2.	Maharashtra	1
3.	West Bengal	1
4.	Andaman & Nicobar	2

Endemism: No endemism has been recorded from India.

Habitat: They found in all oceans except Polar Regions, along coastlines, from intertidal regions to subtidal regions up to approximately 400 meters. They live inside flexible tube like structures.

Ecological Significance: They are an important food source for grazers.

Human Significance: Direct human significance not yet reported.

Threatened species: Not yet assessed.

Protected Species as per WPA: Phoronids are not listed under any schedules of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Species under CITES: There is no species enlisted under the CITES Appendices.

Invasive alien species: No horse-shoe worm species is reported as invasive in Indian waters.

Gap areas: Phoronids are poorly documented in India. Morphological studies on the phylum is scarce but recent years most of researchers applying molecular techniques to discover more species. Comprehensive studies are required to explore the faunal group from the coasts of India.

Systematic list: Species list cited below (Table 2).

Table 2: Phoronids of India

Sl. No.	Species
1.	<i>Phoronis australis</i> Haswell, 1883
2.	<i>Phoronis psammophila</i> Cori, 1889
3.	<i>Phoronopsis</i> sp.

References:

- Craig, S.F., Thoney, D.A. and Schlager, N., 2004. *Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia*; Volume 2: Protostomes. Gale.
- Yogesh Kumar, J.S., 2020. Phoronida. In: *Faunal Diversity of Biogeographic Zones: Coasts of India*: 463-465. (Published by the Director, Zool. Surv. India, Kolkata)
- Raghunathan, C. and Mondal, T., 2018. Miscellaneous Marine Fauna. In: *Faunal Diversity of Biogeographic Zone: Islands of India*: 103-114. (Published by the Director, Zool. Surv. India, Kolkata)