

# ZSI e-NEWS

The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of Zoological Survey of India  
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*From the Director's Desk,*

*I have the pleasure to announce the introduction of a monthly electronic newsletter, featuring the highlights of activities of the Zoological Survey of India, beginning from January 2009. In this regard I am very glad to present hereby the first issue of the newsletter.*

*As for the Survey, the month of January has been very eventful. I have the pride and honour to make my remarks in this connection that Sri. Namo Narain Meena, the Hon'ble Minister of State for Environment, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India, New Delhi, inaugurated the new office complex of ZSI at Calicut (Kozhikode). Sri. M. Bhaskaran, the worshipful Mayor of Kozhikode, and Sri. M. P. Veerendra Kumar, the Honourable Member of Parliament graced the function. I am as well glad to mention that the Eastern Regional Station, Shillong and the Arunachal Pradesh Field Station, Itanagar represented the Zoological Survey of India in the 'Pride of India Expo', held as part of the 96<sup>th</sup> Indian Science Congress, at Shillong from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, with exhibits focusing on the fauna of North-Eastern India.*

*Scientists of the Survey, during the month, have brought to light 1 genus and 13 species new to science, besides new records of 9 species from India.*

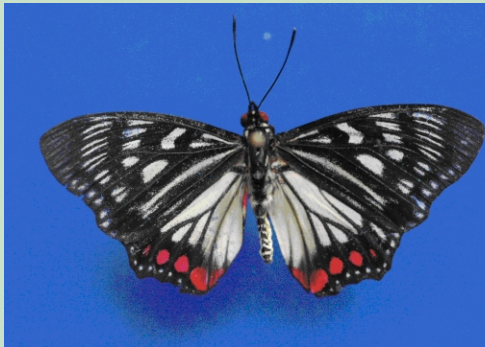
*Dr. Ramakrishna,  
Director,  
Zoological Survey of India,  
Kolkata.*

## Head Quarters, Kolkata

Scientific teams from the Head Quarters, ZSI have undertaken the faunistic exploratory surveys in the states of Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Northern West Bengal, and also in the Bibhuti Bibhusan Wildlife Sanctuary (West Bengal). The scientists identified 300 specimens of various faunal groups, discovering 5 species new to science and recording 8 species for the first time from India. The important publications, viz., 'Animal remains from Archaeological sites from Orissa', 'Studies on little known species of Amphibia from North-east India', and 'Faunal Resources of Tal Chhapar Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan' were brought out, besides 14 research papers. Scientists attended 12 scientific meetings related to the Dept. of Forests, Environment, Biodiversity Board, Zoological Gardens etc. A study on the status of Jackal in Tollygunge Club, Kolkata has been completed, and also a study on the feasibility of free introduction of Pygmy Hogs at Gaurumara Forest, West Bengal was initiated. Scientists attended 15 enquiries on identification of zoological specimens. The 96<sup>th</sup> Indian Science Congress held at Shillong from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> was attended by 2 scientists, and 5 scientists presented papers in various scientific meetings.

## Central Regional Station, Jabalpur

A general faunistic survey of Satna, Katni and Damoh districts was carried out and 1081 specimens of various faunal groups were collected. Species composition dealing with 49 species of butterflies (Lepidoptera), pertaining to Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary, Chhattisgarh has been published. A Preliminary Account of Insect Fauna from Cold Desert of Ladakh (Jammu & Kashmir) has been prepared which includes information on 392 species pertaining to 19 orders. Two butterflies viz. Painted Courtesan- *Euripus consimilis* (Westwood) of the family Nymphalidae and Tree Yellow- *Gandaca harina* (Horsfield) of the family Pieridae are recorded for the first time from Central India. A TV Channel (Sahara News) covered the information provided by the station on 'Conservation aspects of birds, especially Owls'. The scientists have reviewed the scientific papers received from various journals. Identification services were rendered to Biotechnology Department, Sagar University, Madhya Pradesh.



1. *Euripus consimilis* (Westwood)



2. *Gandaca harina* (Horsfield)

## Southern Regional Station, Chennai

A compendium on the fauna of Tamilnadu state has been finalized and the same is in press. The volume will serve as a reliable database on the animal taxa found in the various biogeographic zones, the Deccan Plateau, Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats of the country, falling partly in Tamilnadu. The document lists 2405 species of invertebrates and 1051 species of vertebrates under 38 faunal groups. The station represented in the special training programme for official language implementation held at Madurai on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Northern Regional Station, Dehra Dun

Three Intensive Surveys were conducted in Kalesar Wildlife Sanctuary, Haryana and representative fauna collected. Descriptions of 2 new species of nematodes completed. 3 Holotypes and 29 Paratypes of 3 species of nematodes and 1 specimen of Protozoa were added to the National Zoological collection of the station. One Type specimen of Hymenoptera was sent on loan to ZSI, Calicut for study. Information on the fauna of Jhajjar district, Haryana was submitted for the district Gazetteer.

## Andaman & Nicobar Regional Station, Port Blair

One survey was undertaken to Campbell Bay and Indira Point in the Great Nicobar Island during 12<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>. 35 species of corals, 26 species of Echinoderms, 30 species of molluscs, 15 species of butterflies and 55 species of birds were identified. A scientist of the station was deputed for the 28<sup>th</sup> Indian Antarctic Expedition. One research paper was published on the Oceanic Zooplankton in the Continental Slope of Andaman Waters of Bay of Bengal.

## Western Regional Station, Pune

Faunastic surveys of Chandoli National Park and Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary, Maharashtra were carried out and a total of about 800 examples of faunal elements collected. Identification services to various external agencies were rendered on following groups: mantids (3 species) butterflies (25 species), odonates (20 species), molluscs (5 species), crabs (1 species), Nematomorpha (1 species). Three lectures relating to Ornithology and Entomology were delivered to students and teachers. Computerization of 4000 identified records and 1500 library records were completed.

## Desert Regional Station, Jodhpur

Sardar Samand Reservoir, Rajasthan was surveyed during the month. 8 species of Odonata, 13 species of Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae and 3 species of Nematoda: Dorylaimida were identified. Registered 350 lots of unidentified and 44 lots of identified collection. 2 papers were published and 2 manuscripts revised. First proof of the document, "Faunal Exploration of Tal Chhappar Wildlife Sanctuary" (*Conservation Area Series No. 38*) was corrected.

## Gangetic Plains Regional Station, Patna

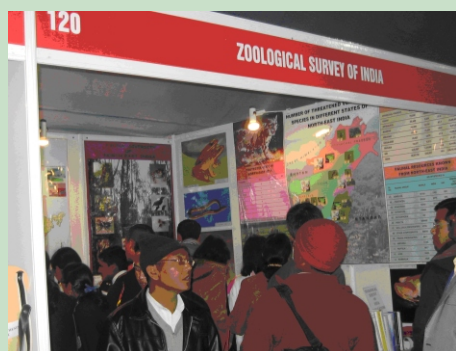
Description of a new species of Parasitic Hymenoptera (Torymidae) from Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir and a report on a new record of a species of Torymidae from India were finalized. 10 species of moths collected from Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary, Jharkhand, 2 species of mantids and 3 species of Pteromalidae (Hymenoptera) collected from Bihar and Jharkhand states were identified. A faunistic survey of Subernarekha River, Jharkhand was undertaken and 462 examples of various aquatic fauna and 22 vials of zooplankton samples were collected. 2 research manuscripts were reviewed and advisory services rendered. The station represented in the special training programme for official language implementation held at Madurai on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Eastern Regional Station, Shillong

4 species of aquatic Hemiptera collected from Nokrek Biosphere Reserve, Garo Hills district, Meghalaya were identified. The station represented Zoological Survey of India in the Pride of India Expo held as part of the 96<sup>th</sup> Indian Science Congress from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> at North Eastern Hill University, Shillong.



'Pride of India Expo' held as part of the 96<sup>th</sup> Indian Science Congress at Shillong.



A view of the ZSI pavilion in the 'Pride of India Expo'.



ZSI pavilion in the 'Pride of India Expo', exhibiting the fauna of North-Eastern India.

## Marine Biological Station, Chennai

14 species of marine aquarium fishes and 6 species of fresh water fishes were identified. Study of Marine sponges is under progress. 10 species of marine fishes were added to the marine aquarium maintained at the station. Several school and college students visited the aquarium. Identification services were rendered to 2 outside agencies and 5 manuscripts reviewed, rendering advisory services. The station represented in the special training programme for official language implementation held at Madurai on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Fresh Water Biological Station, Hyderabad

A local survey of lakes in and around Hyderabad was conducted. 3 species of polychaetes collected from the estuaries of Mahendra, Jhanjhavathi, Sarada and Pennar rivers, 5 species of fishes from Kolleru lake, 16 species of aquatic insects from Durgam Cheruvu and Hussain Sagar Lakes were identified besides identifying 32 species of aquatic Coleoptera received from Central Regional Station, Jabalpur. A manuscript entitled, "*Limnological & Faunistic studies of Wyr Lake, Khammam Dist. Andhra Pradesh*" has been finalized. The station represented in the special training programme for official language implementation held at Madurai on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Estuarine Biological Station, Gopalpur-On-Sea, Ganjam

11 species of fishes and 2 species of Crustacea collected from Brahmani-Baitarani Estuary, Bhadrak Dist., Orissa have been identified. One scientist of the station underwent training on recent advances in Molecular Markers and their applications from 12<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR) [ICAR], Lucknow. Under the programme of digitization of Indian faunal resources, 600 data entries have been made pertaining to the identified estuarine faunal collections of the Station.

## High Altitude Zoology Field Station, Solan

9 species of fishes and 6 species of Butterflies collected from Ladakh (J. & K.) and Pangri Valley were identified. One scientist of the station underwent training on recent advances in Molecular Markers and their applications from 12<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, at National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR) [ICAR], Lucknow which is expected to augment the taxonomic studies on ichthyology, currently going on in the station. Two research papers on Lepidoptera and Orthoptera were published in the *Proceedings of Forest-Pest and Disease management in Himalaya* by Himalayan Forest Institute, Shimla.

## Arunachal Pradesh Field Station, Itanagar

A local survey was conducted on 29<sup>th</sup> and various invertebrate samples were collected from Hati Nullah and adjacent areas of Doimukh in Arunachal Pradesh. One research paper dealing with the foraging technique and prey-handling time in black-necked Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*) has been published, besides communicating 3 research papers. A bird census programme was carried out at Rasikbil, Coochbehar, West Bengal from 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> and a list of species recorded was submitted to the concerned Forest Department. The station represented Zoological Survey of India in the Pride of India Expo held as part of the 96<sup>th</sup> Indian Science Congress from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, jointly with Eastern Regional Station, Shillong, at North Eastern Hill University and a power-point presentation on the calls and songs of various bird species and their importance in taxonomical research was also made during the occasion.

## Marine Aquarium and Research Centre, Digha

3500 individuals, mostly tourists visited the aquarium maintained in the station during the month. A variety of fishes like the Orange Spotted Grouper (*Epinephelus coioides*), Black-finned Butterflyfish (*Chaetodon decussates*), Red-tailed Butterflyfish (*Chaetodon collare*), Indian Grouper (*Epinephelus faveatus*), Damsel fish (*Dascyllus trimaculatus*), Clark's Clownfish (*Amphiprion clarkia*), Indian Lionfish (*Pterois miles*), Crown Squirrelfish (*Sargocentron diadema*), Suckerfish (*Echeneis* sp.), Giant Moray Eel (*Gymnothorax javanicus*), and Stingray (*Dasyatis* sp.) were introduced to the aquarium besides the Horseshoe Crab (*Carcinoscorpius rotundicauda*), Red Starfish (*Linckia laevigata*), Sea Anemone, *Stichodactyla mertensii* and the local fish varieties. New additions of these attractive fauna were well appreciated by visitors as

reflected through their comments in the visitors book. Through monthly local surveys around Digha coast, 128 live examples of marine fauna were collected for the aquarium by the staff. A pair of huge catfish (*Arius* sp.) was also introduced in the open fresh water tank in the aquarium premises which became a major attraction for the visitors. Apart from aquarium maintenance, the various research projects assigned under the Annual Plan of Research Work were also carried out and the specimens collected during the surveys were processed for identification. From the recently completed projects in 2008, one manuscript has been submitted for publication in the *Records of Zoological Survey of India*.

## Western Ghats Field Research Station, Kozhikode (Calicut)

1 genus and 5 species of Scelionidae (Hymenoptera: Insecta), new to science have been described and the research manuscript made ready for publication. Further, 4 species of Telenominae (Hymenoptera) were identified. An updated check-list of the Amphibia of India based on the recent classification is made ready for publication. One research paper on the occurrence of the bird, *Puffinus carneipus* on the Kozhikode coast, Kerala has been published. Advisory service has been rendered to a Research Associate of the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) on status and distribution of vultures in Kerala. Scientific and Technical assistance was rendered to scientists from the Project Directorate Biological Control, Bangalore, who visited the station. 3 invited talks were delivered, one each at University of Calicut for the University Grants Commission's (UGC) refresher course, at Unity Women's College, Manjeri (Malappuram dist.) and at Govt. College, Mahe (Pondicherry). 2 field surveys were conducted in Wynad district and Calicut district to study the parasitoid (Hymenoptera: Insecta) fauna of paddy agro-ecosystems during the month. The station represented in the special training programme for official language implementation held at Madurai on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Two officers of the station attended the Research and Advisory Monitoring Meeting (RAMC) for BSI & ZSI, at the Botanical Survey of India, Dehra Dun on 7<sup>th</sup>.

Sri. Namo Narain Meena, Honourable Minister of state for Environment, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India, New Delhi, inaugurated the new complex of the office cum laboratory building and residential quarters of the Western Ghats Field Research Station, Kozhikode (Calicut), including the new Zoological Museum of the station on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2009. The new research complex and the museum were well appreciated by the Honourable Minister and the distinguished invitees on the occasion of the inauguration. During the month, 2140 visitors paid their visits to the museum.



Sri. Namo Narain Meena, Honourable Minister of state for Environment, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India, New Delhi, visiting the new office complex of ZSI at Calicut.



**The Honourable Minister inaugurating the new office complex of ZSI, Calicut, in the presence of Sri. M. P. Veerendra Kumar, Member of Parliament.**



**The Honourable Minister unveiling the inaugural plaque during the inaugural function.**



**The Honourable Minister lighting the lamp.**



**The Honourable Minister visiting the museum in the new office complex of ZSI at Calicut.**



**The Honourable Minister addressing the gathering during the inaugural function.**



**A view of the audience during the inaugural function.**