

ZSI e-NEWS

The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of Zoological Survey of India

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ANIMAL OF THE MONTH



Golden Langur

OUT OF THE BOX



ZSI
IN
NEWS



VIDEO



**Golden
Langur**

PAINTINGS FROM ZSI HERITAGE ALBUM



From the Director's Desk



**Dr. K. Venkataraman taking over the Headship of ZSI
as Director, on 30th December, 2010.**

Dear all,

The turn of events in human life has to reconcile with the ins and outs of the life process itself. There are pleasantries competing with awful episodes, which condition actually is the life of every one of us. The account of the life of humankind is replete with these conditions. Happiness and sadness are always part of the human life and this balancing wheel goes on to shape the wheel of destiny.

From birth to death, the phases of human existence have some sterling and luminous events while some are traumatic and tragic. In this whirlpool of destiny there is an incandescent message from ancient India. That the pain and the pleasure, rights and duties have got to be taken alike in a spirit of service and service above self is the content of the message of 'doing your duty without aspiring for the result thereof'. This message has been abundantly enriched in the introduction of Warren Hastings in the English Translation of *Bhagvad Gita*, way back in 1773 "when the majesty and greatness of the British Empire are thrown into oblivion this scripture and the lessons it contain will continue to inspire millions of people in the world". This message of *Gita* has always been a source of inspiration, strength and courage throughout my life and I deem this message is also befitting to the officers and staff of Zoological Survey of India.


The echelons of ZSI's excellence are nothing but all your dedication to the service of the human kind, transcending the artificial frontiers of geography, culture and narrow regimental fellowship. Friends, you are looking forward to have Dr K. Venkataraman for the official tenure of service as Director, ZSI. During my innings as Director, I want to achieve incalculable success stories with all your support.

I wish to record here my special gratitude and Indebtedness to all the Directors, Scientists, assistants and all other staff who worked for the progress of ZSI and also those whom we do not know as to how they supported to the progress of this great organization. Their untiring work made ZSI a successful organisation. I fondly want to place on record my deepest appreciation to all my present day ZSI colleagues who immensely influenced me in harnessing intellectual acumen and also always gave valuable support and advice. Your benevolence, love

and concern helped shape me up to the present level. I am grateful to all ZSI Colleagues for the love and affection showered on me. I am deeply indebted to you all.

With these few words I once again thank all of you for your best cooperation and blessings extended to me. May the Lord Almighty shower His blessings to enable ZSI to live as an estimable organisation and lead us in lustrous and matchless ways in the coming years for the future Indians!

K. VENKATARAMAN,
Director, ZSI

 In this Issue

Headquarters, Kolkata

Extensive Faunal Field surveys were conducted in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal and local surveys were carried out in and around the wetland area (Bortibeel) of North 24 Parganas, West Bengal.

Out of the material studied, 5 genera namely *Delta* de Saussure, *Eumenes* Latrielle, of potter wasps (Hymenoptera: Vespidae: Eumeninae) *Pareumenes* de Saussure, *Phimenes* Giordani Soika, and *Rhynchium* Spinola and 10 species namely, *Delta pyriforme* (Fabricius), *Delta esuriens* (Fabricius), *Delta companiforme gracilior* (Giordani Soika), *Delta dimidiatipenne* (de Saussure), *Delta conoideum* (Gmelin), *Phimenes flavopictum continentale* (Zimmermann), *Eumenes architectus* Smith, *Eumenes punctatus* de Saussure, *Pareumenes quadrispinosus* (de Saussure) and *Rhynchium brunneum* (Fabricius) were found to be new records from the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

During the month, the scientists of Headquarters identified 4 species of parasitic nematodes, 5 species of Coleoptera, 5 species of Collembola, 25 species of Hemiptera, 4 species of Hymenoptera, 5 species of Isoptera, 6 species of Odonata, 5 species of Orthoptera, 25 species of spiders, 9 species of mites, 1 species of Crustacea, 14 species of Mollusca and 4 species of Anurans from the States of Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Orissa coast, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal as well as the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu.

Identification services were rendered on 7 lots of

specimens, received from different organisations.


One research paper and one book were published, ten papers accepted for publication and four research papers communicated.

Prof. M. M. Goswami, Dept. of Zoology, Guwahati University, Assam; Dr. M. Shomendra Singh, Reader, along with his 3 research scholars from the Dept. of Zoology, Thambal Maric College, Manipur University, Manipur; 3 research scholars from the Zoology Department of Calcutta University and a junior research fellow from Andaman & Nicobar Regional Centre, ZSI, Port Blair visited different sections of Headquarters for their studies.

Dr. Ch. Satyanarayana, Asst. Zoologist delivered an invited lecture entitled "Conservation of Coral Reefs The underwater paradises under threat" to the university and college lecturers at the Zoology Dept., University of Calcutta on 22nd December, in connection with the UGC Refresher course.

Publications:

1. Srinivasan, G. and Girish Kumar, P. 2010. New records of potter wasps (Hymenoptera: Vespidae: Eumeninae) from Arunachal Pradesh, India: Five genera and ten species. *J. Threatened Taxa*, 2(12): 1313-1322.
2. Special Publication: A book entitled 'Atlas on Hairs of Indian Mammals (Part I: Carnivora)' by Rina Chakraborty and J.K. De - released by Sri Ananta Ray, Hon'ble Minister for Forests, Govt. of West Bengal on 20th December.


 In this Issue



Delta pyriforme pyriforme (Fabricius)



Delta dimidiatipenne (de Saussure)

 In this Issue

Marine Biology Regional Centre, Chennai

Four species of Gorgonids, 5 species of Marine Sponges and 6 species of Polychaetes were identified and registered during the month, out of the material collected from the recent survey tour to Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve. A senior scientist of the Centre delivered 3 lectures, first on “Marine Bio Resource of Gujarat with special reference to Coral reef ecosystem: an Overview” at a National Conference on Marine Bio-resource, Biotechnology and Biodiversity, Marine Bio-resource Centre, second on Taxonomy and Inventory- Marine Biodiversity in India, to discuss how to sustain CoML in India and the Indian Ocean Region beyond formal conclusion of Census I, at Census of Marine Life (CoML) India Chapter in Kochi and the


third on “Conservation of Biodiversity for Holistic Development” at “National Conference on Conservation of Biodiversity for Holistic Development” organized by Loyola Institute of Frontier Energy (LIFE), Loyola College, Chennai and attended the Symposium on Indian Ocean Marine Living Resources (Indo MLR), organized by Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Kochi. Scientists of the Centre attended scientific meeting of the Chennai science festival 2011 organized by Science City, Chennai. One advisory service was rendered to Adyar Poonga Trust, Chennai. Different varieties of animals including ornamental fishes were introduced in the marine aquarium of the Centre. One research paper was submitted for publication.



Indian melon, *Melo melo*



Thalassoma sp.

 In this Issue


Southern Regional Centre, Chennai

A field survey was undertaken in southern Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu from 17th -31st of the month and collected representative faunal samples for taxonomic studies. 28 species of fishes from the collections of MBRC and 8 genera of zooplanktons collected from Pallikaranai marsh were identified. Besides, 2 species of fishes, the whip scorpions collected from Raj Bhawan, Chennai and 4 species of reptiles collected from the Kanniyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary were identified. 3 research papers were published and 5 research papers communicated. Dr K. Ilango, Scientist 'C' was invited as a member of the working group for the preparation of a road map for Forestry Research by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and he delivered a talk on 'Strength & Opportunities in ZSI' at the Institute of Forest Genetics & Tree Breeding, Coimbatore. Dr V. M. Sathish Kumar, Sr. Zool. Asst., Delivered a lecture on "DNA taxonomy: a tool for Biodiversity Conservation" on 20th December for the MSC students of Ethiraj College, Chennai.

Publications:

1. Ranjit Manakadan, K. Rema Devi, S. Sivakumar and Indra, T.J. 2009. Fish Fauna of the wetlands of Sriharikota Island, Southern India and their Conservation Issues. *J. Bombay Natural Hist. Soc.*, 106 (3): 313-323.
2. Marcus Knight, J.D. and Rema Devi, K. 2009. On a record of *Amphilophus trimaculatum* (Gunther) (Teleostei: Perciformes: Cichlidae) in the natural waters of Tamil Nadu, India. *J. Bombay Natural Hist. Soc.*, 106 (3): 347-348.
3. Ilango, K. 2010. Radiation of the Oriental phlebotomine sand flies (Diptera: Psychodidae). *Insect Science*, 117, DOI 10.1111/j.1744-7917.2010.01378.x.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1744-7917.2010.01378.x/full>

 In this Issue


Freshwater Biology Regional Centre, Hyderabad

Detailed taxonomic descriptions for the final write up on 3 annual programmes on Ichthyofauna of different estuaries are under progress and analysis of seasonal data (Southwest monsoons) on Palair reservoir is in progress. Chapter-wise write up on the Limnobiological studies on Kolleru Lake, post dismantling of the illegal aquacultural ponds, is in progress. The thrust / focus of limnological studies on various urban/semi urban lakes has been the variability and seasonal population dynamics in zooplankton community inhabiting the varied lake types along the trophic series- a subject of intense aquatic ecological importance. The Centre's explorative studies during the last quarter revealed presence of quite a few single species bloom, an ecological phenomenon, not commonly documented/ reported upon in the limnological literature. Quantitative enumerative studies for computing species diversity indices are in progress for evaluating the diversity of different species in the overall zooplankton community. A research manuscript has been submitted. An advisory service on the literature on Thomisidae, Araneae Spiders, has been rendered. The Centre's scientists

made 3 Oral presentations and 1 poster presentation at the National and International Conferences held in early/mid December, 2010 in Hyderabad and Dr S.Z. Siddiqi, Scientist - D participated in panel discussions in the national symposium.



Indian Little Ringed Plover- *Charadrius dubius jerdoni*
(Legge) foraging littoral reaches in a lake

 In this Issue

Western Regional Centre, Pune

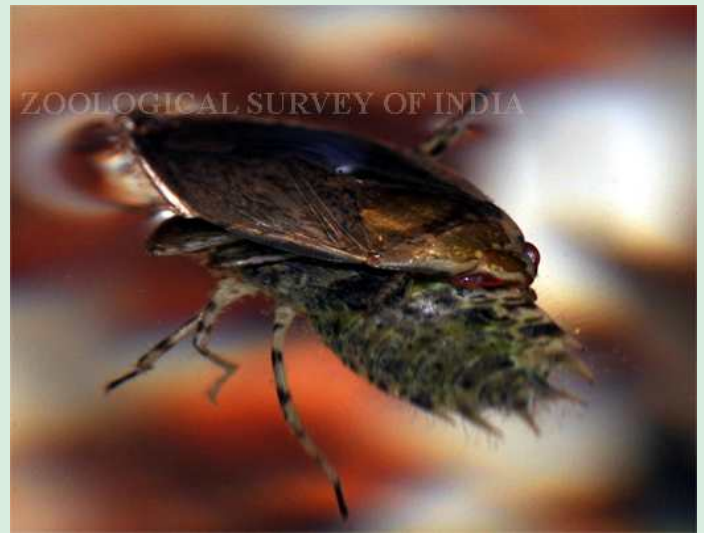
Scientists of the Centre identified 3 species of marine crustacea, 1 species of Orthoptera, 18 species of fresh water fishes, 21 species of Odonata, 3 species of Cladocera and 2 species of freshwater mollusca,

during the month. Sixty students of Dnyanprabodhini School, Nigdi, Pune visited the museum. A modified Burlese funnel was designed, fabricated and installed for extracting soil arthropods in the Centre. Dr. K. A.

Subramanian, Scientist-C co-authored a report on the “Status and Distribution of Dragonflies and Damselflies (Odonata) of the Eastern Himalaya for IUCN Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment of the Eastern Himalaya.




Modified Burlese Funnel for extraction of soil arthropods



Diplonychus rusticum feeding on a Libellulid larvae



 In this Issue

North Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong

During the month, 8 species of Amphibia and 18 species of fishes were identified. Range extension of *Xenophrys zunhebotoensis* Mathew & Sen was confirmed in Meghalaya after the species was collected


during the recent survey tour to East Khasi Hills district. This species was described from Nagaland and was so far known only from the type locality (Zunheboto District, Nagaland).



A view of the Peacock Island and River Brahmaputra at Guwahati



Golden Langur of the Peacock Island

 In this Issue

Arunachal Pradesh Regional Centre, Itanagar

Two research manuscripts, one dealing with the studies on Pisces and Amphibia of Arunachal Pradesh and the other dealing with taxonomic studies on the mammals of Arunachal Pradesh, have been submitted. The first manuscript deals with 99 species of fishes and 55 species of amphibians. The record of a rare fish, *Chaca chaca* (Hamilton) from two different localities of Arunachal Pradesh, the Syom river near Aalo, West Siang District and Senki river in Itanagar is significant as these particular examples show many unique and interesting

features. The second manuscript deals with 215 species of mammals. Dr. Gopinathan Maheswaran, Scientist- C gave his expert opinion to the concerned authorities on the effective management of the Raiganj Sanctuary, Uttar Dinapur, West Bengal, in framing a management plan and also attended a meeting of the State Board for Wildlife, Arunachal Pradesh, during the month. Sixty college students from Dhakuakhana College, Lakhimpur district of Assam visited the museum and library of the Centre along with their supervising teachers.



Congregation of Openbill Storks at Raiganj




Jungle Crow-a major predator of fledglings at Raiganj



Juvenile Openbill Storks at nest



Pond Heron at Raiganj

 **In this Issue**

Estuarine Biology Regional Centre, Gopalpur-on-Sea

A field survey was conducted in the Subadhra estuary, Ganjam district, Orissa, to study the diversity of Ichthyofauna. Nine species of prawns from Brahmani-Baitarani estuary, 5 species of fishes from Subadhra estuary and 3 species of freshwater fishes from Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh were identified. The Namdapha collection included the endangered fish, *Lepidocephalichthys arunachalensis* (Datta and Barman, 1984),


which was described based on only three specimens collected during 1981 from the Namdapha River, by the Zoological Survey of India. Since then there has been no record of this fish and recently the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) categorised the fish as endangered (EN). This endemic fish is now recorded again from its type locality after three decades. About 30 visitors paid their visits to the Museum of the Centre.



Lepidocephalichthys arunachalensis, female



Habitat of *Lepidocephalichthys arunachalensis*

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Central Zone Regional Centre, Jabalpur

A faunistic survey to Singhori Wildlife Sanctuary was undertaken and representative fauna collected for taxonomic studies. During the month, 5 species of Scarabaeid beetles (Coleoptera), 12 species of Hemiptera, 12 species of moths (Lepidoptera) and 6 species of butterflies (Lepidoptera) were identified and registered. 4 species of Mollusca (Gastropoda and Bivalvia) received from the State Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur were identified and identification service rendered. 150 photographs/specimens of various faunal groups received from ZSI, Chennai were identified into 10 species of butterflies, 6 species of Hemiptera, 4 species of Odonata, 3 species of Coleoptera, 3 species of Mollusca and 1 species each of Orthoptera, Diptera, Hymenoptera and Arachnida and the identification report communicated. Dr Kailash Chandra, Scientist-F & Officer-in-Charge attended

the Workshop/Meeting: "Introduction of Data Analysis with IBM SPSS statistics 19.0", at the State Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur and as well rendered scientific guidance to two M. Sc (Zoology) students from Govt. Model Science (Autonomous) College, Jabalpur for their project work on "Tiger Conservation" and "Morphological study of Snakes of Madhya Pradesh". One research document was published and 2 research papers communicated.

Publication:

Shishodia, M.S., Chandra, Kailash and Gupta, Sunil Kumar, 2010. An annotated checklist of Orthoptera (Insecta) from India. *Rec. zool. Surv. India, Occ. Paper No. 314*: 1-366 (Published by the Director, *Zool Surv. India*, Kolkata).

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Moths (Lepidoptera) of Singhori Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh



Micronia aculeata Guen'ee



Ganisa plana Walker



Asota caricae (Fabricius)




Spoladea recurvalis (Fabricius)



Ophiusa coronata Fabricius



Diaphania indica (Saunders)

 In this Issue

Gangetic Plains Regional Centre, Patna

In continuation of the recent survey conducted in the River Damodar in Jharkhand and West Bengal, 6 species of fishes and 11 species of Mollusca were identified and registered during the month. A research paper pertaining to the fauna of River Ganga, dealing with one new species of Annelida, *Odontob-*

della krishna sp. nov., (leech family, Salifidae) has been communicated for publication. A research paper entitled Recharacterisation of the genus *Nepita* Moore (Arctiidae: Lepidoptera) has been accepted in the journal, *Entomon*.




Dr. Gopal Sharma, Scientist-C of GPRC speaking during the *Paryavaran Panchayat* at Ranchi



Dr. Gopal Sharma speaking during the workshop on Conservation of River Dolphin at Patna

Dr. Gopal Sharma, Scientist-C attended the *Paryavaran Panchayat* organized by the Jharkhand State Khadi Gramodyog Board at Ranchi on 19th Dec. 2010 and Dr. Navneet Singh, Scientist-C and Dr. Gopal Sharma, attended the workshop on Conservation of River Dolphin and awareness campaign, jointly organized by the Department of Forests and Environment, Government of Bihar and the Zoological

Survey of India, GPRC, Patna at Gai Ghat on the bank of River Ganga, Patna on 26th Dec. 2010. Dr. A K. Singh, Professor of Zoology, Chhapra University, visited the Centre for identification of Mealy bugs. Three students of M.Sc. Zoology (Environmental Biology) visited the Centre for identification of some benthic fauna (Mollusca) collected from River Ganga. Thirteen visitors visited the museum of GPRC, during the month.

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Desert Regional Centre, Jodhpur

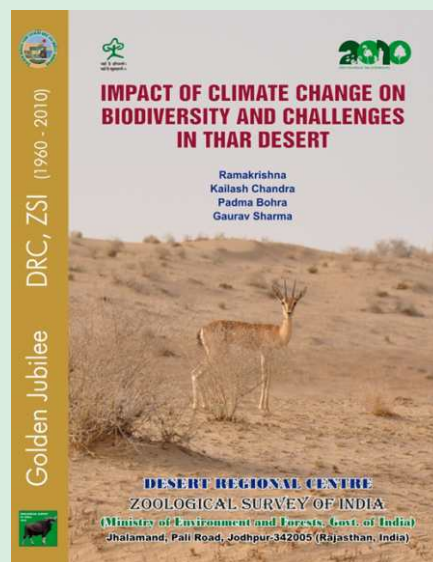
The faunal field survey of Sardar-samand Reservoir, Rajasthan was conducted from 21st - 30th December. During the month, 8 species of Nematoda, 7 species of Lepidoptera, 5 species of Odonata, 8 species of Coleoptera and 3 species of Pisces from various environs of Rajasthan were identified. Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Scientist-C incorporated the status of 44 species of Odonata, in the IUCN Red List (www.iucnredlist.org). Final report of EIA Project on "Faunal Study in Hadla Rawalet, Hadla Bhatiyar and Mokha Lignite Block, District Bikaner (Rajasthan)" was submitted to MoEF, New Delhi. Identification and advisory services were rendered to Dr. Vipin Chaudhary, Sr. Scientist, Directorate of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants Research, Boriavi, Gujarat on 7 species of Lepidoptera. Dr. B. Venugopal, Director, National Museum of Natural History (MoEF), New Delhi visited the Centre on 12th December. Fourteen B. Sc. Forestry students from the Dept. of Forestry, North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology, Arunachal Pradesh and Ms. Victoria Johnson (Journalist, London) visited the Centre on 16th December. Dr. Harinder Singh Banyal, Scientist-C of the Centre attended the computer training programme for DDO at PAO, MoEF, New Delhi on 28th December. 72 entries of identified fauna were made in the faunal Database of the Centre. 129 entries pertaining to the books in the Centre's library were made employing the software, *e-granthalaya*. 184 visitors visited the Museum.



During the Visit of B. Sc. Forestry students, NERIST, Arunachal Pradesh

Publications:


1. Ramakrishna, Chandra, K., Bohra, P. and Sharma, G. 2010. Impact of climate change on biodiversity and challenges in Thar Desert. Proceedings of National Seminar, ZSI, DRC, Jodhpur. Published by The Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata. 384pp.
2. Kumar, S. 2010. A brief article on research activities and progress of Zoological Survey of India, Desert Regional Centre. *Suryoday Patrika*, Narakas, Jodhpur (in Hindi). pp. 8-9.



Cover Page of "Proceedings of National Seminar" held at DRC, ZSI, Jodhpur



Ms. Victoria Johnson (Journalist, London), at DRC

 In this Issue

Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair

Surveys were conducted in Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve from 22nd October to 12th December and in the Ritchie's Archipelago from 7th to 13th December to study the faunal communities in marine and terrestrial ecosystems. A total of 121 species of corals, 5 species of gorgonids, 29 species of gastropods, 9 species of nudibranchs, 18 species of echinoderms, 11 species of crabs, 47 species of fishes, 42 species of phytoplankton and 48 species of zooplankton were identified from marine habitats, while 34 species of butterflies, 13 species of moths, 17 species of other insects and 51 species of birds were recorded from the terrestrial counterpart of the areas surveyed. Besides, 48 species of fishes were identified from the unnamed collection of the Centre. Among the corals, *Montipora incrassata* (Dana, 1846), *Agaricia grahamae* Wells, 1973, *Leptastrea pruinosa* Crossland, 1952, *Halomitra clavator* Hoeksema, 1989, *Porties stephensoni* Crossland, 1952, and *Caryophyllia spinigera* Saville-Kent, 1971, turned out to be new distributional records to Indian waters. 56 species of corals, 33 species of nudibranchs and 2 species of gorgonids were registered in the National Zoological Collection. A manuscript on the new record of the scleractinian family Caryophyllidae has been prepared and submitted for publication. As per the request of the National Institute of Ocean Technology, 9 species of soft corals were identified. The census of spotted deer and birds has been conducted in the Mount Harriet National Park, South Andaman, as requested by the Department of Environment and Forests, Port Blair. As requested by the Director, Educational Multi-Media Research Centre, Mysore University, the scientific staff of the Centre gave a series of television interviews on the activities of ZSI, Port Blair and the importance of 16 various marine and terrestrial faunal groups of A&N Islands during 28th to 30th December for the academic programme of University Grants

Commission being telecasted through DD National Television Channel (Gyan Darshan). In response to the request received from various departments, scientific staff of the Centre delivered lectures on 'Census on spotted deer and birds' for the Dept. of Environment and Forests, Port Blair on 14th December, 'Faunal Diversity of Andaman and Nicobar Islands' for CPR Environmental Education Centre on 21st December, 'Bird Watching' in the Global Bird Watcher's Conference 2010 at Jamnagar on 25th December, and 'Coral Reef Ecosystem and its fishery resources in A&N Islands' for Defense Officers of Bihar Regiment on 29th December. Dr. C. Raghunathan, Scientist-C participated in the Consultation meeting on Mapping of Plant Resources of A&N Islands organized by Botanical Survey of India, Port Blair on 27th December and Dr. C. Sivaperuman, Scientist-C served as a Member in Monitoring Committee for implementation of working plans for Dept. of Environment and Forests, Port Blair. Facility to examine the specimens of herpetofauna of the Centre has been extended to the researchers from the Wildlife Institute of India, on request.

Publications:

1. Sivaperuman, C., Ramakrishna and Q.H. Baqri, 2010. Distribution, population structure and conservation of fauna of Thar Desert of Rajasthan. In: *Impact of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Challenges in Thar Desert* (Eds.) Ramakrishna, Kailash Chandra, Padma Bohra and Gaurav Sharma, Zoological Survey of India, pp.87-95.
2. Sivaperuman, C., Ramakrishna and Q.H. Baqri, 2010. Avifauna of Thar Desert: Species diversity abundance distribution patterns. In: *Impact of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Challenges in Thar Desert* (Eds.) Ramakrishna, Kailash Chandra, Padma Bohra and Gaurav Sharma, Zoological Survey of India, pp.146-153.



Ascidian, *Atrialum robustum*



Opisthobranch, *Hypselodoris bullocki*



Nudibranch, *Hypselodoris infucata*



Nudibranch, *Philinopsis pilsbryi*



Echinoderm, *Mespilia globulus*



Seastar, *Acanthaster planci*



Seastar, *Fromia monilis*



Seastar, *Linckia guildingi*



Coral, *Diploastrea heliopora*




Coral, *Favites abdita*



Gecko, *Phelsuma andamanensis*



Confiscated Elephant Tusks

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High Altitude Regional Centre, Solan

During the month, 2 species of Orthoptera, 3 species butterflies and 3 species of fishes were identified from Churdhar Wildlife Sanctuary and Kalatop Khajjiar Wildlife Sanctuary.

The research document on the Faunal Diversity of Pangri Valley under the Himalayan Ecosystem series, dealing with the 214 species under 7 faunal groups, was corrected and resubmitted to the Publication

Division of ZSI. One research paper was published.

Publication:


Jatinder Sehgal, H. S. Rose and Avtar Kaur Sidhu (2010). Studies on biology of *Catopsila Pomona* (Fabricus), the common emigrant and *Catopsilia pyranthe* (Linnaeus), the mottled emigrant (Lepidoptera: Pieridae) from Punjab. *Uttar Pradesh J. Zool.* **31**(3): 335-343.



Hard life of Pangri Valley: a person dragging a dry wood along the glaciers at Sural in preparation of winter



Himalayan Griffon in Pangri Valley

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Sunderban Regional Centre, Canning

One local survey was conducted in and around Canning and Dabu areas and representative faunal samples belong to Pisces, Crustacea and

Mollusca were collected for taxonomic studies. During the month, 11 species of Pisces were identified and registered.



Alepes djedaba (Forsskal, 1775)



Cynoglossus lida (Bleeker, 1851)



Cynoglossus lingua Hamilton, 1822



Dussumieria acuta Valenciennes, 1847



Gazza minuta (Blotch, 1797)



Platycephalus indicus (Linnaeus, 1758)



Pomadasys kaakan (Cuvier, 1830)



Upeneus sulphureus Cuvier, 1829

Marine Aquarium cum Regional Centre, Digha

During the month, 553 examples of live freshwater and marine ornamental exhibits were collected for exhibition in aquarium galleries. *Chiloscyllium confusum*, Bamboo shark, *Charybdis feriata*, Indo-Pacific Crab, *Portunus pelagicus*, Blue swimming crab and *Acanthopagrus berda* were the center of attraction among the visitors. The aquarium received an average of 750 tourists per day during the month due to Christmas and new-year celebrations. Under the annual plan of research work, 85 examples were collected through local surveys. In total, 48 fish specimens from the recent collection and 80 examples

of fishes from old collections were identified. A research manuscript on new site records of four fishes of the family: Nemipteridae was communicated to the Records of ZSI. A scientist of the Centre attended the Interaction meeting with World Bank officials at Kolkata on 11th December. A staff of the Centre also attended the “Nature Study Camp and Nature Trail Programme”, organized by Digha Science Centre, as a resource person. An information brochure pertaining to the Centre was released during the Half-Yearly monitoring meeting at NRC, Dehradun on 9th December.



Acathurus tristris Randall, 1993




Heniochus acuminatus (Linnaeus, 1758)



Caesio caerulaurea Lacepede, 1801



Gymnothorax reticularis (Bloch, 1795)

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Northern Regional Centre, Dehra Dun

Established in the year 1960, the Northern Regional Centre celebrated its Golden Jubilee in December 2010. A series of functions were held. On 1st December, 2010, a “Drawing and Painting Competition” for elementary school children was organized, while on 2nd December, the senior school children participated in a quiz contest, “Kaun Banega Zoologist”. On 3rd December, the Graduate and PG level Students from local Colleges participated in a “Hands on training programme on collection and preservation of Zoological specimens”. The theme of the celebration was Environment, Pollution and wildlife. The Golden Jubilee Finale was held on 10th December 2010, in which the Principal Chief Conservator of

Forests of Uttarakhand, Dr. R. B. S. Rawat was the Chief Guest while Dr. Rajendra Dobhal, Director, Uttarakhand Council of Science and Technology, Dehra Dun was the Guest of Honour. Besides, invited Guests from local Institutes and Colleges, Universities, and the Officers-in-Charge of all the Regional Centers of ZSI, and the Scientists and Staff who superannuated from NRC, attended the function.

A *Golden Jubilee Souvenir* on the activities and achievements of Northern Regional Centre (1960-2010) was released by the Hon'ble Chief Guest on the occasion. Three invited lectures on the topics of current interest were also delivered by the Scientists from outside. As a token of remembrances,

mementos were presented to all the present and past employees of the Regional Centre, who were present on the occasion. The function was well covered by the Press and TV media, both the local and National Channels.

During this period, the Centre also hosted the Half-Yearly monitoring meeting of the Regional Centres of ZSI on 8th and 9th of the month.

On the regular research front, under the various programmes assigned to the Centre, the progress achieved during the month is given below:

Fauna of Jhilmil Conservation Reserve: Two local surveys were undertaken; 5 species of Butterflies were identified and 39 species of birds observed.

Fauna of Dehra Dun District: Two local surveys were undertaken; 16 species of butterflies were identified and 9 species of birds observed.

Fauna of Kalesar National Park (KNP): Permanent slides of Helminths collected and studied were prepared. Research manuscripts on Amphibia, Mammalia,

Aves, nematodes and centipedes of KNP were submitted by the concerned scientists.

Helminth Parasites of Vertebrates of Dehra Dun: All Helminth parasites studied were slide-mounted.

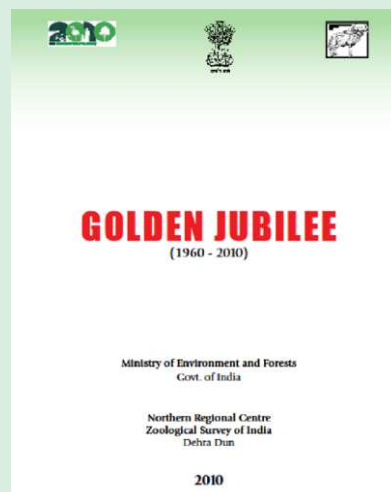
Besides, three research papers were published, two communicated and three research manuscripts were reviewed and comments offered.

Publications:

1. NRC, ZSI, Dehradun .2010. Golden Jubilee Souvenir highlighting the activities and achievements of the Centre. Published by the Director, Zoological Survey of India. Pp. 1-96.
2. Rizvi, A.N. and Bhutia, P.T. 2010. Amphibian Parasites of Kalesar Wildlife sanctuary (Haryana), India. *J. Parasitic diseases* (Springer Publication).
3. Tak, P.C. and Sati, J.P. 2010. Black crested bulbul *Pycnotus melanicterus*) - an addition to the avifauna of Kalesar National Park, District Yamuna Nagar, Haryana, India. *Newsl. Birdwatchers*, 50(2): 1-2.



Dr. R. B. S. Rawat, P.C.C.F, Uttarakhand (second from left in the image) releasing the souvenir on the activities and achievements (1960-2010) of the Northern Regional Centre, Dehradun. Dr. A. k. Sanyal, P.T. Bhutia and C. Radhakrishnan, Addl. Directors of ZSI, respectively on the left and right of Dr. R. B. S. Rawat.




Souvenir on the activities and achievements (1960-2010) of the Northern Regional Centre



During the various functions associated with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of NRC/ZSI, Dehradun



During the various functions associated with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of NRC/ZSI, Dehradun

 In this Issue

Western Ghat Regional Centre, Kozhikode (Calicut)

Two new species under the genera *Leptotelia* Kieffer and *Ceratobaeus* Ashmead (Platygastridae: Hymenoptera) have been identified. Description and illustration work of the new species are under progress.

An interactive identification system on the genera of Platygastrid egg parasitoids (Hymenoptera: Insecta) in Paddy ecosystems has been developed.

Nine species of Odonata and 4 species of Pteromalidae (Hymenoptera) from Southern Western Ghats were identified. Photographs of endemic species of Amphibia were made ready for the programme on the Atlas of Amphibia of Western Ghats.

During the month, 2 papers were published and 3 papers submitted for publication. Two identification and advisory services were rendered to the B. Ed (Natural Science) students of the Farook Teacher's Training College, Feroke, Calicut on a project "Mangrove biodiversity of Kottooli wetlands, Calicut" and to Mr. Santhosh Kumar, Ph. D student, University of Mangalore on 26 species of Amphibians. Dr. K. Rajmohana, Scientist-C attended an International Conference on Public Communication in Science and Technology, at New Delhi, on 8th December and presented a paper "A Museum for understanding Biodiversity-The Calicut initiative". She also attended, as the ZSI representative, a meeting organized by MoEF, New Delhi on 20th December,

for discussions regarding the All India Coordinated Project on Biodiversity Inventorisation, Conservation and Sustainable utilization. Dr. P. M. Sureshan, Scientist-C delivered a lecture on 'Biodiversity, Loss and Conservation', to the students in a one-day workshop organized by the Youth Hostel, Calicut on 10th December. Dr. P. M. Sureshan and Dr. Muhamed Jafer Palot attended the *First Indian Biodiversity Congress- IBC 2010*, at Thiruvanthapuram from 28th to 30th December 2010, organized by the Centre for Innovation in Science / Social Action (CISSA) and the Kerala State Biodiversity Board, and presented papers.


During the month, 1080 visitors paid their visits to the museum.

Publications:

1. Rajmohana. K, 2010. "A Museum for understanding Biodiversity: The Calicut initiative", in Science Communication without Frontiers- Proceedings of the 11th International Conference on Public Communication In Science and Technology, New Delhi, India, pg. 460-462.
2. Rajmohana. K and Bijoy, C. 2010. A Checklist of Ceraphronoidea (Hymenoptera: Insecta) of India, (Electronic publication in the ZSI website www.zsi.gov.in.)



During the Christmas celebrations in WGRC, ZSI, Kozhikode

 In this Issue

ANIMAL OF THE MONTH

Golden Langur

Trachypithecus geei (Khajuria, 1956)

[Text & Photo: North Eastern Regional Centre, Zoological Survey of India, Shillong]



The naturalist Edward Pritchard Gee discovered one of the most endangered primate species of India, the Golden Langur, in 1953, which is named after its rich golden to bright creamish pelage. However, the species was given a scientific description only in 1956 by Khajuria.

The species has a black face, and a very long tail measuring up to 70-100 cm in length that helps in balancing the body for their arboreal habit. The average adult males weigh about 10 kilograms and adult females 9 kilograms. The length of the head and body ranges from 50-75 cm. The coat color changes from golden to creamy white in the summer and to a red color in the winter season. During the rainy season it obtains water from dew and rain drenched leaves. It is herbivorous in diet and feeds on fruits, leaves, seeds, buds and flowers. It is diurnal in activity. Groups of Golden Langurs are more active in the morning and evening, resting during the heat of midday.

Generally they live in troops of about 8 individuals (at times, more) with several females to each adult male. The gestation period is about 6 months. Females give birth to a single young one.

The species occurs only in Bhutan and north-eastern India (Assam) in the world. In Assam, it is found in

Manas National Park and Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary.

During a recent visit to the Peacock Island (considered the world's smallest island where human beings inhabit) located in the vicinity of Guwahati, Assam, a staff of the North Eastern Regional Centre of ZSI, Shillong, came across 7 Golden Langurs which according to the local people, were introduced two decades back (1 pair by a pilgrim couple, though could not be authenticated). On observing closely, it was found that their behavior has changed. They climbed down to the land often (contrary to their arboreal nature) and stayed close to the human visitors. Despite being strict herbivores, it was observed that they were eating even cakes offered by the pilgrims who visited the Shiva Temple called 'Umananda', located in the island!

The population trend of Golden Langur is declining, with fewer than 2,500 mature, living individuals. None of the sub-populations comprise more than 250 mature individuals. The causes for its decline are habitat destruction and the consequent restriction of its populations in fragmented forest pockets.

The species is a Schedule I species in the Indian Wildlife Protection Act (1972). It is also listed on CITES, Appendix I.

Further reading:

<http://www.arkive.org/golden-langur/trachypithecus-geei/#text=all>

<http://www.iucnredlist.org/apps/redlist/details/22037/0>

http://www.theprimata.com/trachypithecus_geei.html

<http://wikimapia.org/124660/umananda-temple-peacock-island-world-smallest-river-island>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/gee's_golden_langur

ZSI IN NEWS

(Please zoom to read)

News from NRC/ZSI, Dehradun**News from WGRC/ZSI, Calicut****Wildlife Week -2010, celebrations at WGRC, Calicut**

<http://www.zoosprint.org/ZooPrintMagazine/2010/December/24-32.pdf>, see pages 26-27.

OUT OF THE BOX**A secret Butterfly park in Owla, Mumbai**

<http://www.cnngo.com/mumbai/visit/citypulse/chasing-butterflies-owla-872709>

PAINTINGS FROM ZSI HERITAGE ALBUM

Gharial*Gavialis gangeticus* (Gmelin, 1789)

Compiled by C. Radhakrishnan, Scientist- F & Officer-in-Charge, ZSI, Calicut