

ZSI e-NEWS

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ZSI e-NEWS

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Headquarters, Kolkata

Field surveys were undertaken in the states of Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. Local surveys were carried out in and around wetland areas (Bortibeel) of North 24 Parganas, West Bengal. Four phyla (including 3 minor phyla) namely Ctenophora, Brachiopoda, Sipuncula and Echiurida and also 5 species of Brachyuran crabs have been collected for the first time from the mangroves of Orissa. Besides, 1 species of Pipe fish (Family: Syngnathidae) has been collected from muddy tunnels of supra-littoral area of the Mangrove. Apart from that, the scientists of Headquarters identified 3 species of Protozoa, 12 genera of parasitic nematodes, 22 species of Coleoptera, 7 species of Diptera, 4 species of Collembola, 12 species of Hemiptera, 2 species of Hymenoptera, 8 species of Isoptera, 4 species of Odonata, 3 species of Orthoptera, 8 species of mites, 10 species of spiders, 3 species of Crustacea, 23 species of Mollusca and 5 species of Amphibia from the states of Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, including Eastern Ghats, Dudhwa National Park and also from the old collections from Sri Lanka. Out of the material studied, the hairy wasp *Scolia (Discolia) binotata binotata* Fabricius (Hymenoptera: Scoliididae) is a new record for Assam and

Tripura and *Scolia (Discolia) fasciatopunctata dunensis* Betrem (Hymenoptera: Scoliididae) is a new record for Jharkhand. The Hemiptera specimens of Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu, received from the Southern Regional Centre, ZSI, Chennai, were identified as belonging to 5 species of Reduviidae.

Twelve type specimens of Isopoda donated by the Australian museum have been deposited in National Zoological Collections, Kolkata.

Identification services were rendered on 8 lots of specimens, received from different organisations. Digital photographs of amphibians of mangroves of Orissa received from Brahmani College, Kendrapara and of odonates received from Bharathiar University, Coimbatore were identified and identification services rendered. Confiscated specimens of Marine shells received from Delhi Police, New Delhi, were identified and reported. A seized sample of wildlife derivative received from Falakata Police Station, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal, was confirmed as the distorted cut-piece of Rhino-Horn. A flat animal skin received from the Police Department, Chandrapur Dist., Maharashtra was confirmed as that of Tiger, *Panthera tigris* (Linnaeus).

Three research papers were published, ten accepted for publication and eight submitted.



Dr. K. Venkataraman, Director, addressing the scientists of ZSI during the ZSI Senior Officers' Conference

Various sections of Headquarters were visited by teachers and students and researchers from the Manipur University, Vidyasagar University, Calcutta University and the Central Pollution Control Board for studying specimens.

Dr. A.K. Sanyal, Scientist-F, delivered a Panel Lecture on "Invertebrate Diversity" in the "Brain Storming Conference towards building a Consortium on Biodiversity Research in Eastern Himalayas and Eastern Ghats", held at Sikkim from 9th to 11th April. Dr. Basudev Tripathy, Scientist-C participated in the *Sundarban Pavilion*, a seminar organized jointly by the Indian Institute of Science Education & Research, Kolkata and WWF-India, held on 13th & 14th April, at IISER Campus, Nadia, West Bengal. Dr. J.K. De, Scientist-D attended the Screening Committee Meeting for MACP of Group-C Employees of the Geological Survey of India, Kolkata as an external member from ZSI.

Dr. Ch. Satyanarayana, Assistant Zoologist, attended the "National Consultation on Ecosystem Indicators in BOBLME" held at Kochi on 26th & 27th April.

Screening committee meeting was held on 11th & 12th April, 2011 to finalize the new scientific programmes submitted by various scientists of Zoological Survey of India (Headquarters and Regional Centers) for the year 2011-2012, under the Chairmanship of C. Radhakrishnan, Scientist-F and Officer-in-Charge, Western

Ghat Regional Centre, ZSI, Calicut. Altogether 58 proposals were scrutinised by the committee and 40 of them were approved.

The All India Senior Officers' Conference was held from 28th to 30th April. Progress made on the assigned scientific programmes pertaining to the Regional Centres and Headquarters as well as matters pertaining to accounts and administration were discussed. The Annual Plan of Research Work document for the year 2011-2012 was released by Dr. K. Venkataraman, Director, ZSI, and a copy each was received by C. Radhakrishnan, Scientist-F and Officer-in-Charge, Western Ghat Regional Centre, ZSI, Calicut, on behalf of the Regional Centres and by Dr. A. K. Sanyal, Scientist-F, on behalf of the Headquarters.

Dr. K. Venkataraman, Director, Zoological Survey of India attended the following meetings:

The meeting of "Task Force for Conservation of Marine Biodiversity", held under the Chairmanship of the Honorable Minister of State (I/C), MoEF, New Delhi on 8th April; the "Monthly Review meeting of ZSI" under the Chairmanship of Advisor, MoEF, New Delhi, on 13th April; the "National Conference on Integrated Coastal Zone Management" held at Ahmedabad on 16th & 17th April and the meeting of Selection Committee, held at MoEF, New Delhi on 18th April to scrutinize the nomination for E.K Janaki Ammal National



Bangapani, Shimla Dist., Himachal Pradesh



During the field survey at Khajjiar Lake, Himachal

Award. Dr. K. Venkataraman, Director delivered a lecture on "Faunal resources of Mangroves in India" in the *Sundarban Pavilion*, a seminar organized jointly by the Indian Institute of Science Education & Research, Kolkata and WWF-India, held on 13th & 14th April at IISER Campus, Nadia, West Bengal and as well delivered a talk on "India's Interests in the Indian Ocean" (including Q & A session) at Conclave on India's Strategic Foreign Policy, held at Chennai, on 25th April, hosted by FICCI, Chennai.

Publications:

1. Mandal, G.P. and Mehta, H.S. 2011. Collembola (Hexapoda) in Cold Desert Region of India- A Preliminary Report. In:

Global Change, Biodiversity and Livelihoods in Cold Desert Region of Asia, (Edits. Saxena, Liang & Xue), pp.61-63.

2. Ganguly, K., Quasin, S., Roy Mahato, A.K. and De, J.K. 2011. Activity Schedule, Herd Dynamics and management of Spotted Deer, *Axis axis* (Erxleben, 1977): A case study in Zoological Garden, Alipore, Kolkata. *Indian Forester*, 137(4): 439-441.

3. Girish Kumar, P. 2011. New distributional record of *Scolia* (*Discolia*) *binotata binotata* Fabricius (Hymenoptera: Scoliidæ) from Assam and Tripura, India. *Bugs R All, Newsletter of the Invertebrate Conservation & Information Network of South Asia*, 17: 37.

Andaman and Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair

Surveys were conducted in South Andaman from 1st-4th April and Ritchie's Archipelago & Middle Andaman during 11th-20th April to study the faunal communities in marine and terrestrial ecosystems. A total of 80 species of scleractinian corals, 8 species of antipatharian corals, 28 species of echinoderms, 13 species of nudibranchs, 30 species of gastropods, 10 species of crabs, 50 species of fishes from the unnamed collections and 5 species of odonates and 43 species of butterflies were identified while 79 species of birds and 8 species of mammals were observed. Among the species identified, the nudibranch, *Chelidonura pallida* Resbeck, 1951, is a new addition to Indian fauna. Apart from that, 61 species of scleractinian corals, 8 species of antipatharian corals, 12 species of echinoderms, 15 species of butterflies, 20 species of moths and 19 species of reptiles have been registered in National Zoological Collection of the Centre. Manuscripts on moths of Baratang Island, new record of gorgonids, new record of fishes and report on polyclads of Nicobar Islands have been submitted to various journals for

publication. Two hundred abstracts have been compiled for the preparation of the compendium on Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve.

An EIA report on the construction of road in Great Nicobar Island (Phase-I) has been prepared and submitted to Border Roads Task Force, Ministry of Defence. Memorandums of Understanding have been signed between ZSI & National Institute of Virology, Pune for Avian Influenza Surveillance in A&N Islands and between ZSI & Department of Environment and Forest, A&N Administration for the preparation of Management Action Plan for Lohabarrack Crocodile Sanctuary, South Andaman.

Publications:

1. Tamal Mondal and C. Raghunathan, 2011. An observation on the coral bleaching in Andaman Islands. *International Journal of Environmental Science*, 1(1): 37-51.

2. Tamal Mondal, C. Raghunathan and Ramakrishna, 2010. New record of nine scleractinian corals from Rutland Island, Andaman. *International Journal of Biological Science*, 1(3): 155-170.



Andaman Teal, *Anas gibberifrons*



Beach Thick-knee, *Esacus neglectus*



Black-naped Oriole, *Oriolus chinensis*



Crested Serpent Eagle, *Spilornis cheela*



Eurasian Curlew, *Numenius arauata*



Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, *Dicrurus paradiseus*

High Altitude Regional Centre, Solan

A research document on the faunal diversity of Churdhar Wildlife Sanctuary, Himachal Pradesh, comprising of information on 198 species was submitted for publication. The *Pictorial Handbook on Amphibia of Himachal Pradesh*, authored by Dr. Indu Sharma, Scientist-C and two documents namely,

"Avifauna of Tawang Chu valley, Western Arunachal Pradesh" and "Bio-acoustic studies on the avifauna of Arunachal Pradesh" authored by Dr. Anil Kumar, Scientist-C were submitted. Besides, two research papers were published, during the month. A query from Himachal Pradesh State Council for Science and

Technology on the status of three mammal species in Himachal Pradesh was attended.

Publications:

1. Kumar Anil and Ramesh Kumar Sharma (2011). Observations on breeding behavior and vocalizations in Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus* from northern India *J. Exp.*



A view of Pangi Valley

Zool. India 14(1): 333-338.

2. Saikia Uttam, M.L. Thakur, Mayur Bawri and P.C. Bhattacharjee (2011). An inventory of the chiropteran fauna of Himachal Pradesh, northwestern India with some ecological observations. *J. Threatened Taxa* 3(4): 1637-1655.



Polyommatus eros in Pangi Valley

Northern Regional Centre, Dehra Dun

Three field surveys were conducted in Jhilmil Jheel Conservation Reserve and Dehradun district and representative fauna collected, besides recording the Avifauna and mammalian fauna. Apart from these intensive surveys, one extensive survey to Etawah, Hamirpur and Kanpur was undertaken for the "Ecological and molecular study of fresh water turtles". A total of 6 species of turtles were reported from the area. Enquiry was also made on illegal trade of freshwater turtles in the areas



Eggs of *Kachuga dhongoka* (Gray)
at Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary, Etawah



Pangshura tentoria circumdata (Mertens) at Gangabarrage, Kanpur



Dr. Archana Bahuguna, scientist of NRC releasing the baby turtle, *Pangshura tecta* (Gray), from the trap of a fisherman at Ganga barrage (Kanpur)

surveyed. One research paper was published.

Sixteen students of M.Sc from Sri Partap College, Srinagar, J. & K. visited the Centre on 27th April and they were apprised of the mandates of Zoological Survey of India.

North Eastern Regional Centre, Shillong

During the month, 8 species of fishes were identified besides identifying 2 species of Amphibia from the backlog collections of the Centre. 13 examples of fishes and 2 examples of amphibians were received on donation. 3 officers and 3 staff of the Centre participated in the *Science Exhibition* organized by the Lady Keane Higher Secondary School, Shillong on 6th

Publication:

Khanna, V.2011. Indian Biodiversity Profile and Conservation Status; *in: Entomology: Ecology and Biodiversity*, (Eds. B. K. Tyagi and Vijay Veer Singh) Scientific Publishers, Jodhpur, pp.448-482.

April. Mrs. Jennifer Lyngdoh, Scientist-C of the Centre attended the "18th meeting of expert group-A on conservation and sustainable utilization of Natural Resources" at North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong from 22nd -24th April, organized by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

Marine Biology Regional Centre, Chennai

A survey of the Sea Cumbers of Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve was conducted from 26th April-4th May 2011. Eight species of marine fishes and 7 species of Sponges were identified and registered out of the unidentified collections of the Centre. Besides, the routine water analysis work and the aquarium upkeep work were also continued. The Centre imparted taxonomic training on fishes, marine sponges and meiofauna to M.Sc students of Loyola College during their internship programme at the Centre. Dr. Rajkumar Rajan, Scientist-C of the Centre delivered a lecture on 'Biology of corals and Coral reefs of India' to the trainee students of M. Sc. Zoology, Loyola College, Chennai.



Sea pen *Virgularia mirabilis*, photographed at 9 m depth in Palk Bay, Rameswaram (Photo credit: Rajkumar Rajan, Scientist-C)

Desert Regional Centre, Jodhpur

During the month, 5 species of Nematodes, 4 species of Lepidoptera, 3 species of Odonata, 9 species of Coleoptera and 2 species of Pisces were identified from various environs of Rajasthan. A research document on the *Fauna of Marine National Park and Sanctuary, Gujarat* was submitted. Two research papers were published. Identification services were rendered to the Forest Protection Division, Arid Forest Research Institute (ICFRE), Jodhpur on 2

species of Lepidoptera. Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Scientist-C presented two papers in the "3rd Congress on Insect Science on Pest Management for food security and environmental Health", held at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana from 18th-20th of the month. 49 entries of identified fauna were made in the faunal Database of the Centre. 93 entries pertaining to the books in the Centre's library were made employing the software, 'e-granthalaya'.

The Centre participated in the “NSDL New Pension Scheme Awareness Program” and the “Rajasthan State Board of Wildlife Meeting” 9th April and 11th April respectively.

86 visitors visited the Museum.

Publications:

1. Sharma, G. 2011. Studies on diversity, status and conservation of damselflies and dragonflies in four protected habitats of Aravali Range of Rajasthan and their role as biological control agents. *Journal of Insect Science*. 24 (spl. Iss.): 45-50.
2. Sharma, G. 2010 (Published in 2011). Studies on the floral composition in the six selected

provinces of Sandal (*Santalum album*, Linnaeus) of South India. *Biological Forum-An International Journal*. 2(2):73-77.



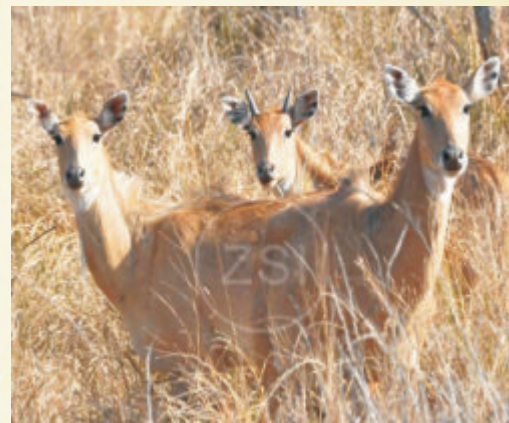
Painted Stork, *Mycteria leucocephala*



Indian Pond Heron, *Ardeola grayii*



Darter or Snakebird, *Anhinga melanogaster*



Nilgai, *Boselaphus tragocamelus*

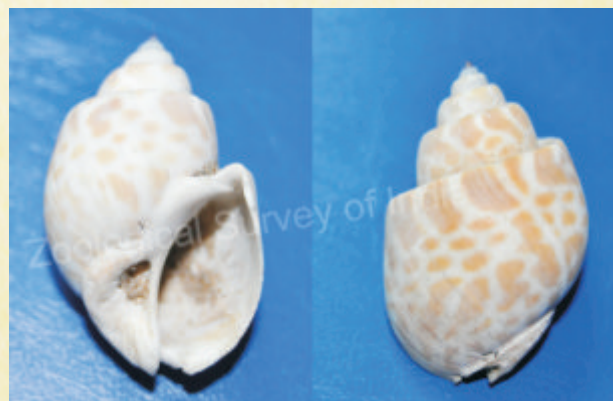
Estuarine Biology Regional Centre, Gopalpur-on-Sea

A field survey was conducted in the Khodokhai River, Mayurbhanj district, Odisha and representative faunal samples collected. Five species of molluscs were identified from the collection of the Bhudabalanga estuary, Odisha

and five species of fishes were identified from the collection of the Subhadra estuary, Ganjam district, Orissa. One research paper was submitted for publication. Twenty five visitors paid their visits to the Centre's museum.



A view of Khodokhai River, Orissa



Babylonia spirata (Linnaeus)

Central Zone Regional Centre, Jabalpur

Faunistic surveys were conducted in Singhori Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh from 31st March-15th April and in four districts of Madhya Pradesh viz., Gwalior, Datia, Bhind and Morena from 22nd April and representative samples collected. Backlog collections of 24 species of Hemiptera and 6 species of Mollusca from Singhori Wildlife Sanctuary were identified and registered. Two research papers were published and three communicated.

Dr Kailash Chandra, Scientist 'F' & Officer-in-Charge of the Centre provided information to the Director, GEER Foundation (Lead Institution for Kachchh Biosphere Reserve) on the fauna of Achanakmar Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve, Chhattisgarh & Madhya Pradesh on 8th April; he also delivered an invited talk on "Collection and Preservation Technique of Zoological Specimens" at Mata Gujar College, Jabalpur on 20th April. Scientific

guidance was given to nine M. Sc, Zoology students of St. Aloysius College for their project work on 'Aquarium Fishes of Jabalpur', two students of M.Sc. Zoology, Govt. Science College, Jabalpur on 'Wildlife in Madhya Pradesh' and 'Wildlife Conservation & Management' and two M. Sc. Zoology students of Govt. Model Science College, Jabalpur on 'Biodiversity of Fish and Birds in Jabalpur'.

Publications:

1. Chandra, K. Sharma, R. M and Harshey, D.K. 2011. *Gongylus gongylodes* (Linnaeus) (Insecta: Mantodea): A new record for Madhya Pradesh, India. *Bugs R All* No. 17 March: p.21.
2. Jathar, G. A., Deshmukh, A. J., Khawale, V. S., Patil, P. S., Pradhan, M. S., Talmale, S. S., Nandvikar, P. D. and Sawant, A. D. 2011. Winter diet of Short-eared Owls *Asio flammeus* in Akola, Maharashtra. *Indian Birds*, 7(1): 17-19.

Birds of Singhori Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh



White-breasted kingfisher, *Halcyon smyrnensis*



Black Drongo, *Dicrurus macrocercus*



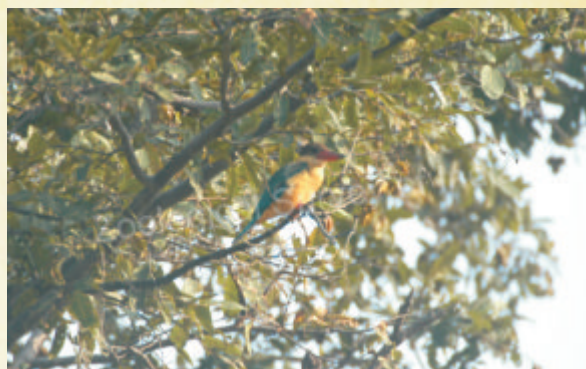
Plum-headed parakeet, *Psittacula cyanocephala* &
Rose-ringed parakeet, *Psittacula krameri*



Little Brown Dove, *Streptopelia senegalensis*



Sirkeer malkoha, *Phaenicophaeus leschenaultia*



Stork-billed kingfisher, *Halcyon capensis*

Southern Regional Centre, Chennai

During the month, 6 species of reptiles and 3 species of blattids from Southern Eastern Ghats, and 3 species of fishes from Pallikarani marsh were identified. Further, 15 marine fishes deposited in MBRC/ZSI, Chennai were identified as 8 species. 3 research manuscripts were reviewed and comments offered. One identification and advisory service was rendered. Two research papers were published and one submitted for publication.

Publications:

1. Marcus Knight, J.D., K. Rema Devi & Vidyadhar Atkore. 2011. Systematic status of *Systomus rubrotinctus* Jerdon (Teleostei: Cyprinidae) with notes on the *Puntius arulius* group of fishes. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*. Pp. 1686-1693.
2. Ilango, K. 2011. Spatial and temporal distribution of phlebotomine sand flies in relation to leishmaniases in India. In *Entomology: Ecology and Biodiversity* (Eds) B. K. Tyagi & V. Veer, Scientific publishers, India (ISBN: 978-81-7233-727-8).



Indian Porcupine, *Hystrix indica* Kerr



A whip scorpion and a camouflaged Spider collected from Southern Eastern Ghats

Marine Aquarium cum Regional Centre, Digha

The aquarium received an average of 180 visitors per day, during the month. 42 examples of live marine and freshwater ornamental animals were exhibited in the aquarium galleries. Major attractions for visitors were the Whitespotted whipray *Hymantura gerrardi*, Surgeon fish *Acanthurus mata*, *Drepane longimana* etc.



Under the identification & digitisation of collection, 111 specimens belonging to 26 families and 38 genera and 46 species were processed. Advisory service was rendered to the Department of Zoology, Barasat Govt. College, Barasat, West Bengal on their fish collections.

Sunderban Regional Centre, Canning

During the month, 5 species of fishes and 1 species of Crab were identified and registered. Dr. D. Suresh Chand, Scientist- C and Officer-in-Charge, participated in the Workshop on 'Right to Information Act' from 7th-8th April,

conducted by the Institute of Secretariat Training and Management, New Delhi.

During the month an Official Language (Hindi) meeting and a debate competition were organized at the Centre.



Thryssa hamiltonii



Younge one of *Alectis indicus*

Arunachal Pradesh Regional Centre, Itanagar

A field survey was undertaken in Dibang Valley to study the water birds of Arunachal Pradesh from 31st March-13th April. During the survey, two districts (Lower Debang Valley and Upper Debang Valley) were surveyed and 22 species of water and water-dependent bird

species were recorded. Apart from these, several other species of birds were also recorded which include the Northern Lapwing, Black-faced Laughing Thrush, Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler, Common Kestrel, Chestnut-eared Bunting and Chestnut-

headed Tesia. Dibang Valley is well known for pheasants; however, at the same time, hunting is more prevalent and remains as one of the main traditional sports of the young men among the Mishmi community. On 4th April 2011, the survey party had come across two hunters carrying a male and a female Blyth's Tragopan (*Tragopan blythii*) shot near Myodia, just 50 kilometers from Roing, the capital of Lower Dibang Valley. While returning from Dibrugarh, the survey party came across a mixed flock (about 40) of critically endangered White-backed Vultures and Long-billed Vultures on the road side feeding on the carcass of cattle.

As a part of the special grant received from the MoEF, the Compact Insect Storage System has been installed at the Centre.



A river in Dibang Valley



Northern Lapwing



Mixed flock of vultures sighted in Assam



Hunters with dead tragopans



Blyth's Tragopan (Male)

Western Regional Centre, Pune

During the month, 10 species of marine molluscs, 3 species of freshwater crabs, 17 species of Odonata and one species of Collembola were identified. 267 records of the identified collection of Lepidoptera and Odonata were databased. Identification and advisory services were rendered on the fish *Clarias batrachus* (Linnaeus) and the crab *Barytelphusa cunicularis* (Westwood), to Poona College of Arts, Science & Commerce, Pune. Five Post graduate Students from Ramakrishna More College, Akurdi, University of Pune, Wadia College and Garware College, Pune, completed their M.Sc theses on freshwater fishes, molluscs and Odonata. Dr. R.M. Sharma,

Scientist-D and Officer-in-Charge participated in a workshop on "Disposal of Appeal under RTI" held on 11th April, at ISTM, New Delhi.



Barytelphusa cunicularis (Westwood, 1836)

Freshwater Biology Regional Centre, Hyderabad

During the month, 5 species of fishes and 6 species of aquatic Coleoptera were identified from Palair Lake. Three manuscripts on faunal studies of Brahmani-Baitarani Estuarine Fauna and the studies on the Ichthyofauna of Nuanai Estuary and Cauvery Estuary were submitted.

As part of monitoring of lake ecology, Umda sagar, Ranga Reddy district, Andhra Pradesh was visited on 26th April and collected various aquatic faunal elements and analysed water samples for physicochemical parameters.



Pied Bushchat

Gangetic Plains Regional Centre, Patna

The faunistic survey of River Damodar was conducted from 31st March-10th April. During the month, 10 species of molluscs were identified out of the aquatic samples collected from River Damodar. The site of Blackbuck (*Antilope cervicapra*) near Buxar, Bihar, was visited on 15th April and >250 Blackbucks were sighted.

Dr. Gopal Sharma, Scientist-C and Officer-in-Charge attended the Bihar State Wildlife Board meeting on 14th April as an ex-officio member.

He also attended the National Seminar on Earth and Atmosphere on 22nd April (Earth Day) at Dhanbad in Jharkhand, as the Guest of Honour. The Chairperson of the Centre for Environmental Education, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, visited the Centre for launching a mass awareness campaign for conservation of Ganga Dolphin among the fisher folk in Bihar State, a project sponsored by the MoEF.

Under the Special Grant, a *Leica* Stereo Zoom Microscope was installed at the Centre.

Male Bluebull, *Boselaphus tragocamelus*Male Blackbuck, *Antelope cervicapra*

Western Ghat Regional Centre, Kozhikode (Calicut)

A field survey was conducted in the Malabar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kozhikode district, Kerala on 21st April. During the month, 6 species of Platygastriidae (Hymenoptera) were identified, of which one species under *Calliscelio* Ashmead was identified as new to science. Besides, 3 species of Pteromalidae (Hymenoptera), 2 species of Mantidae and 7 species of Centipedes (Chilopoda) were identified.

A research paper dealing with a new species of Diapriidae: Hymenoptera: Insecta from Western Ghats has been published. Three research papers were accepted for publication and one paper was submitted for publication.

Three identification and advisory services were rendered to various parties.

Dr. K. Rajmohana, Scientist-C rendered one week training on species taxonomy of Platygastriidae to a Scientist of 'National Bureau of Agriculturally Important Insects (NBAIL)', Bangalore from 19th-24th.

Dr. Muhamed Jafer Palot, Asst. Zoologist, participated in the Malabar Ornithological Survey (Mukurthi National Park, Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu to Silent Valley National Park, Kerala), organized by the Kerala Forests & Wildlife Department from 4th-8th April.

290 visitors paid their visits to the museum during the month.

The World Health Day was celebrated at the Centre in association with OPEN MEDICINES, on 7th April; a talk on 'Lifestyle diseases' was delivered by Dr.T.P.Mehroof Raj, MD followed by an interactive session as well as a wellness checkup arranged on the day for the staff of the Centre.

Publication:

Rajmohana. K. 2010. On a new species of *Paramesius* Westwood (Diapriidae: Hymenoptera: Insecta) from India. *Rec. zool. Surv. India*, 110 (Part-4): 5-8.



Paramesius primoris Rajmohana,
a new species of Hymenoptera from Western Ghats

Scolopendrid centipedes collected from Western Ghats



Rhysida immarginata immarginata (Porat)
exhibiting parental care



Rhysida longipes longipes (Newport)



During the 'World Health Day' celebrations at the Centre

ANIMAL OF THE MONTH

The Great Archduke
Lexias cyanipardus (Butler)



Dorsal view



Ventral view

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

The Great Archduke, *Lexias cyanipardus* (Butler), is a tropical forest-dwelling butterfly. It is a member of the brush-footed butterfly family Nymphalidae. It has a wing span of 110-135mm, the females being slightly larger than the males. It is the largest species of the genus *Lexias*, characterized by a broad blue border on the upper surface of the hindwing and a rich dark indigo green ground colour with bluish-white spots on the undersurface of the wings. The females are white-spotted above. This species is very similar to the Dark Archduke, *Lexias khasiana* (Swinhoe), in habits and markings and can be differentiated from the latter only by its wing span and the ground colour of the under surface of the wings.

The Great Archduke is reportedly distributed throughout Southeast Asia. In India, it is confined to the hill tracts of the North Eastern Himalaya where they are very rare. So far they have been reported only from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Bangladesh. Subspecies of the same are, however, reported from other Southeast Asian countries.

The Great Archduke is threatened by the rampant deforestation going on in the region and is now to be found only in a few Protected Areas like Namdapha, in Arunachal Pradesh and Nokrek Biosphere Reserve, in Meghalaya.

CHECK LIST OF FAUNA OF INDIA

[Visit [www.zsi.gov.in/...](http://www.zsi.gov.in/)]

Platygastrinae and Sceliotrachelinae (Platygastridae: Hymenoptera: Insecta)

ANIMAL CALLS

Mangrove Whistler

[Visit <http://zsi.gov.in/animalscalls2.html>]

OUT OF THE BOX

The fourth domain of life found?

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn20265-biologys-dark-matter-hints-at-fourth-domain-of-life.html>

Worms tip off on brain repair

<http://www.sciencealert.com.au/news/20113103-22015.html>

**Researchers find remains of herbivorous dinosaurs in
Madhya Pradesh**

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/article1685045.ece>

PAINTINGS FROM ZSI HERITAGE ALBUM



Four-horned Antelope

Tetracerus quadricornis (Blainville, 1816)