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# ZSI e-NEWS

January 2017

The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of Zoological Survey of India

*ZSI in the 101<sup>st</sup> year of Service to the Nation  
(1916 to 2016)*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



**T**he Training & Extension Division at ZSI-HQ, Kolkata, conducted a training workshop on "Collection, Preservation and Identification of

Insects and Mites of Economic Importance" on 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> January. Collection and preservation of biological specimens have a great role in taxonomy. Museum collections form the foundation in taxonomic research. Specimens are collected from different places through extensive and often adventurous explorations and surveys over varied time scales. Once properly curated, preserved, and catalogued, they are irreplaceable and invaluable scientific assets, for they serve as vital source of information about the natural world as well as the biodiversity of a region. The metadata extracted from specimen labels, once collated,

present a unique picture regarding the distribution of the species. Such information benefit several fields since they yield base line data in studies related to environmental changes including global climate change, spread of vector borne diseases and biological invasions.

Taxonomic collections are consulted frequently in identification of organisms. The potential of museum collections as a key resource in building DNA barcode reference libraries is enormous. The possibility to recover DNA sequences atleast partially from centuries old natural history collections using adequate molecular techniques, has opened up opportunities to uncover the cryptic and hitherto undiscovered species.

Wishing you all a happy and prosperous new year.

Dr. Kailash Chandra

Director

Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata

Back issues of ZSI e-NEWS [ visit: [www.zsi.gov.in](http://www.zsi.gov.in) ]

**HEADQUARTERS, KOLKATA**

During the month a survey was conducted at the Western Ghats, Tamil Nadu from 22<sup>nd</sup> December to 7<sup>th</sup> January. From 18<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> January, a survey was conducted at Terrai Grassland. Local surveys of the Eco-sensitive zones of the City Bird Sanctuary and Sukhna Wildlife sanctuary was conducted on 18<sup>th</sup> January. A team from Bird Section visited Kharibaeri, Kolkata on 12<sup>th</sup> January for local survey and spotted 19 bird species and on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, Nalban bird sanctuary, Chilika, Orissa and Dhapa to document migratory bird species.

During the month, the scientists of Headquarters identified 36 species of Protozoa, 8 species of soil oribatid mites, 4 species of Collembola, 14 species of Orthoptera, 5 species of Isoptera, 5 species of Diptera, 14 species of Odonata, 14 species of Ephemeroptera 16 species of Hymenoptera, 36 species of Coleoptera, 44 species of Hemiptera, 18 species of Lepidoptera, 22 species of Nematelminthes, 11 species of Platyhelminthes, 4 species of Crustacea and 2 species of mammals.

A species of Platyhelminthes, *Oochoristica aizawlensis* Banerjee, Manna and Sanyal (Platyhelminthes: Cestoidea) has been published as new to science. A grasshopper species, *Bolivaritetti xcircocephalus* Zheng, 1992 belonging to family Tetrigidae has been recorded for the first time from India.

During the month five research papers were published, two were accepted and five

research papers were communicated.

Identification and advisory services were rendered on twenty two lots of specimens, received from different Institutions and Organizations. 490 bird neck capes received from WCCB were identified and the report has been sent. Dr Rizvi received 4 samples from Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine & Storage, Kolkata for confirmation of nematode infection. Dr. C. Venkatraman, Scientist-D & Officer-in-Charge of Mammal & Osteology Section and team members identified and registered 10 specimens of Greater Shot-nosed Fruit Bat *Cynopterus sphinx*, Vahl, 1797 and 20 specimens belonging to 10 vertebra bones of Asian elephant, *Elephas maximus*, Linnaeus, 1758. A total of 60 vials of dipteran specimens (altogether 72 examples) were received by the Diptera Section from different Universities and Institutes during this month of which 72 examples were identified and identification report was sent to the concerned Institute.

20 B.Sc. students from Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Nadia, West Bengal and a batch of 35 students from Lumding College, Assam visited the Zoological Galleries and different Sections/Divisions of ZSI Headquarters on 19<sup>th</sup> January and 20<sup>th</sup> January respectively, as part of their educational tour. Training & Extension Division, conducted a training workshop on "Collection, Preservation and Identification of

Insects and mites of Economic Importance” at ZSI Headquarters on 30<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> January. Shri Anil Sant, Joint Secretary, MoEFCC presided over the function as Chief Guest and Dr. M. Mallipatil, Associate. Prof., La Trobe University, Australia, Dr. Malay Naskar, Principal Scientist, CIFRI, Barrackpore, W.B. and Dr. A.K. Sanyal, Chairman, West Bengal Biodiversity Board were present as invited resource persons. Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, Sci. D conducted the workshop as the co-ordinator and also delivered a lecture on “Insects: The Nature's Perfect Success Story”. 27 candidates from Eastern India, ZSI Regional Centres and Headquarters participated in the workshop. Shri Krishna Kumar, Junior Zoological Assistant of HQ also attended the same.

Dr. Rizvi was deputed by DZSI as guest member specialist for conducting the walk-in-interview of RA & SRF on 30<sup>th</sup> of the month at RPQS, Kolkata.

Dr. Kailash Chandra, Director, attended 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of CITES Cell on 3<sup>rd</sup> January under the chairmanship of the Addl. Director General of Forests (WL), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India to discuss the Management of exotic and endemic species. He also attended the Meeting of Research Advisory and Monitoring Committee of Centre for Ecological Sciences on 10<sup>th</sup> January at Centre of Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. On 24<sup>th</sup> January Dr. Chandra attended the workshop on “Sustainable

Development of Sunderban: A Comprehensive Agenda” at Kolkata to explore the twin challenges of ecological conservation and social development in the Sunderban region so as to identify the priorities for action and the means to implement them. At MoEFCC on 25<sup>th</sup> January Dr. Chandra attended a meeting on 'Action Taken Note on the recommendation of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on S & T, E & F' under the chairmanship of IGF (EAP).

### **Publications**

- Suranjana Banerjee, Buddhadeb Manna and Ashok Kanti Sanyal. 2016. A review of the genus *Oochoristica* Luhe, 1898 with description of *Oochoristica aizawlensis* sp.n. (Platyhelminthes: Cestodea) from *Calotes versicolor* from Mizoram, India, *NBUJ. Anim. Sc.*, 10:57–68. ISSN 0975-1424. (Published online).
- Aniruddha Maity, Atanu Naskar, Surajit Hazra, Jayita Sengupta, P. Parui, Sumit Homechaudhuri and Dhriti Banerjee, 2016 Taxonomic Notes on Tabanidae (Insecta: Diptera) of Sundarban Biosphere Reserve and Associated Mangrove Ecosystem of Coastal region of West Bengal, India. *Journal of Advanced Zoology*. (2):37-96.
- Sharma, G., Kamalakannan, M., Manna, C.K. and Dam, D. 2016. Tricho-taxonomic studies for identification of wild boar, *Sus scrofa* Linnaeus, 1758 by dorsal guard hairs (Suidae: Artiodactyla: Mammalia). *Rec. zool. Surv. India*: 116 (Part-3): 301-306.

- P.C. Saha, B. Biswas, M.E. Hassan, Kailash Chandra and Praveen K. 2016. On an account of family Pyrrhocoridae (Hemiptera: Heteroptera) from Chhattisgarh, India. *Rec. zool. Surv. India* 116 (3), 269-278.

- Kailash Chandra, Sandeep Kushwaha and Paramita Mukherjee. 2016. A Review of the Genus *Bagauda* Bergroth, 1903 (Heteroptera: Reduviidae) from India. *Munis Entomology & Zoology*. 2017 12(1); 120-126.



Republic Day Celebrations



Shri Anil Sant IAS, Joint Secretary, MoEF&amp;CC being greeted by Dr. Kailash Chandra



Students and faculty from BCKV, Dept. of Agriculture, Entomology (WB), on a visit to HQ



Training workshop on "Collection, Preservation and Identification of Insects and mites of Economic Importance"





ZSI Participating in World Book Fair 2017, New Delhi



Field work as part of the training workshop

## ANDAMAN & NICOBAR REGIONAL CENTRE, PORT BLAIR

A number of surveys to assess the faunal communities were undertaken in marine and terrestrial ecosystem of Paget Island Sanctuary, Point Island Sanctuary, Reef Island Sanctuary and Duncan Bay of North Andaman from 18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> January. From 18<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January, terrestrial ecosystem of Campbell Bay National Park, Galathea National Park and Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve were surveyed and marine ecosystem of North Bay of South Andaman on 31<sup>st</sup> January while terrestrial ecosystem of South Andaman from 4<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> January were surveyed.

A total of 404 species comprising of 145 species of scleractinian corals, 9 species of octocorals, 2 species of hydrozoans, 10 species of sea anemones, 1 species of tube anemone, 1 species of scyphozoan, 1 species of nemertean, 11 species of sponges, 13

species of opisthobranchs, 19 species of molluscs, 8 species of polyclads, 7 species of crabs, 30 species of echinoderms, 23 species of ascidians and 20 species of fishes were identified from marine environment while 18 species of butterflies, 1 species of diptera, 9 species of amphibians, 10 species of reptiles and 66 species of birds were identified/observed from terrestrial environment.

An ascidian *Herdmania andamanensis* has been identified as new species to science. Besides an opisthobranch *Noumea subnivalis* Baba, 1987, an octocoral *Lobophytum cristatum* Tixier-Durivault, 1970, and 5 species of ascidians *Ascidia tenue* Monniot, 1983, *Ascidia munda* Sluiter, 1898, *Phallusia depressicula* (Heller, 1878), *Polycarpa reniformis* (Sluiter, 1904) and *Cnemidocarpa hemprichi* Hartmeyer, 1916 were new records to Indian waters.

Scientific and technical inputs were provided regarding Marine Aquatic Environment Data for the ALHW project site at Hope Town Wharf to the Executive Engineer, Andaman Lakshadweep harbour Works, Port Blair on request. Images of butterflies were submitted to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Department of Environment & Forests, South Andaman on request. Images of faunal diversity, ecosystems, forest cover and landscape of Andaman and Nicobar Islands were submitted to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Department of Environment & Forests, South Andaman on request. A report on ZSI's participation in side events during CoP-13 to the CBD at Cancun, Mexico was submitted to ZSI Hq. Pdf and scanned copies of all the available published books, manuscripts, pamphlets and posters have been submitted to the technical section for providing inputs to Bharatvani Project of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

Dr. C. Raghunathan, Scientist-D & Officer-in-Charge served as a member in the committee for setting up minimum price for the catches of M.V. Blue Marlin at Fishery Survey of



Opisthobranch, *Pleurobranchus Forskalii* Ruppell & Leuckart 1828

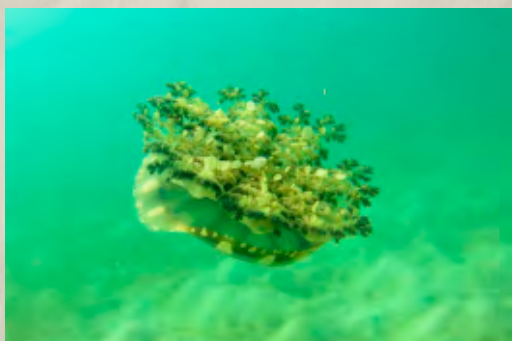
India on 6<sup>th</sup> January. He served as a member in Research Advisory Committee of Department of Environment and Forests, A & N Administration on 11<sup>th</sup> January and also served as a member in the building committee at ICMR, Port Blair on 17<sup>th</sup> January. Mr. P.T. Rajan, Senior Zoological Assistant, served as a member for physical inspection of SCUBA dive centre at Chidiyatapu, South Andaman, organized by Directorate of Tourism on 3<sup>rd</sup> January. He also prepared a question paper on marine biology for the final examination of the 50<sup>th</sup> batch of Forest Guards to the Director, Forest Training School, Wimberly Gunj, South Andaman.

#### Publications

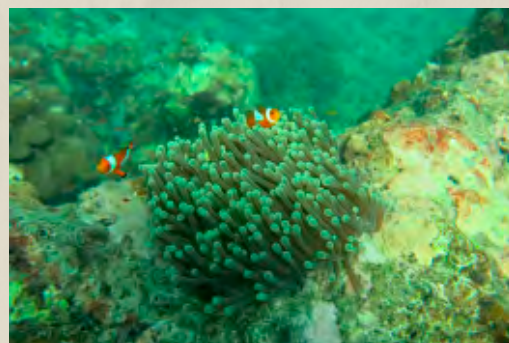
- Dixit, S., Raghunathan, C. and Chandra, K., 2017. Two new marine flatworms (Polycladida: Pseudocerotidae) from Andaman & Nicobar Islands, India. *Zootaxa*, 4221(1): 111-122.
- Rajan, P.T. and Vikas, N., 2016. New incidence of four reef fishes from Andaman and Nicobar Islands. *Records Zoological Survey of India*, 116 (Part- 3): 313-315.



Polyclad, *Acanthozoon alderi* Collingwood 1876



Scyphozoa, *Cassiopea andromeda* Forsskal 1775



Sea anemone *Heteractis magnifica* Quoy and Gaimard 1833

## WESTERN GHAT REGIONAL CENTRE, KOZHIKODE (CALICUT)

During the month a new species, *Gollumiella metallica* Girish Kumar and Sureshan (Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea: Eucharitidae) and another new species, *Hamataliwa hellia* Dhali, Saha & Raychaudhuri (Araneae: Arachnida) were published. One wasp species, *Ropalidia birmanica* van der Vecht (Hymenoptera: Vespidae: Polistinae) and a spider species, *Hamataliwa incompta* (Thorell) (Araneae: Arachnida) were reported to be new records from India. Two local surveys were conducted on 19<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> January to Kakkadampoyil, Malappuram District.

Dr. P.M. Sureshan, Scientist-D & Officer-in-Charge, attended the National seminar on "Modern Perspectives in Systematic Entomology" organized by Govt. College, Kodenchery, Kozhikode on 24<sup>th</sup> January and delivered a talk on the topic Hymenoptera and Biodiversity conservation. He also delivered a talk on "Profiles of Insect diversity" to Graduate students of Kodungallur Govt. College, Kodungallur on 2<sup>nd</sup> January. Dr. BHC Murthy, Sci.-C,

attended a Training programme for implementation of Budget and Expenditure Management System (BEMS) web application held at Indira Paryvaran Bhawan, MOEF & CC, New Delhi on 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month. Dr. Muhamed Jafer Palot, Asstt. Zoologist, attended the National Seminar on 'Natural Environment: Status & Significance' at Govt. Brennen College, Thalasserry and delivered an invited talk on 'Faunal diversity of Kerala' on 19<sup>th</sup> January. He delivered a lecture on 'Biodiversity around us' to the students of 'Gifted Child Programme' organized by District Education Department, Kozhikode.

WGRC, Calicut participated in the National Science Expo and set a stall in connection with Kerala Science Congress organized by Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment at Marthoma college, Thiruvalla, Kerala from 26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> January and bagged 2<sup>nd</sup> prize among the stalls of Government institutions.

Three scientific papers and one popular

article were published.

Dr. Muhamed Jafer Palot, Asstt. Zoologist, identified 46 confiscated Parakeet specimens for the Kerala Forests & Wildlife Department, Thamarasserry Forest Range to be submitted before the First Class Magistrate Court, Kozhikode. He also rendered advisory services to Shri. Habeebullah, M, Asst Professor, College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Government Medical College on the Mangrove ecosystem of Kerala for his Ph.D work. He attended the Meeting of District Environmental Impact Assessment Committee (DEIAC) as an expert committee member at the Conference Hall of District Collector, Civil station, Kozhikode on 12<sup>th</sup> January. He also attended the meeting of Board of Studies in Life Sciences at M.E.S. Mampad College (Autonomous), Mampad, Malappuram on 31<sup>st</sup> January. Dr. Dhruba Chandra Dhali, Post Doctoral Fellow, identified Whip spiders (Amblypygi) and Whip scorpions (Thelyphonida) from the depository of SRC, Chennai and also identified spiders (Araneae) for Degree (Zoology) students, Providence Women College, Calicut as 31 species under 29

genera of 12 families.

During the month, 839 persons visited ZSI museum.

### Publications

- P. Girish Kumar, P.M. Sureshan and P. Manju (2016). New record of the paper wasp species *Ropalidia birmanica* van der Vecht (Hymenoptera: Vespidae: Polistinae) from India. *Devagiri Journal of Science*, 2(1): 92-94.
- P. Girish Kumar and P. M. Sureshan (2016). Description of a new species of *Gollumiella* Hedqvist (Hymenoptera: Eucharitidae) from the Southern Western Ghats, India. *Records of Zoological Survey of India*, 116(Part-3): 197-200.
- Dhali, D. C., Saha S. & Raychaudhuri, D. 2017. In Raychaudhuri, D. & Saha S. (Edts.). Monograph - Litter and ground dwelling spiders (Araneae: Arachnida) of reserve forests of Dooars, West Bengal. World Scientific News; *Scientific Publishing House,, DARWIN" Poland*, 63 (2017): 242 pp (EISSN 2392-2192).
- Muhamed Jafer Palot. 2016. *Udumbukal* (Reptiles: Bengal Monitor Lizard, *Koodu Magazine*. Vol. 4 (8):41-42. December. 2016.



Exhibition stall, at Kerala State Science Congress



*Onychothemis testacea ceylanica*

*Urothemis signata**Varanus bengalensis*

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

During the month, one local survey tour to Rushikulya estuary was conducted on 18<sup>th</sup> of the month, 27 examples in which 20 examples of fishes belonging to 13 species under 11 genera and 11 families, 5 examples of crabs belonging to 3 species under 3 genera and 1 family and 2 examples of prawns belonging to 1 species have been identified. From earlier surveys of Rushikulya estuary, 18 examples of molluscs (Gastropods) belonging to 6 species under 5 genera and 5 families have been identified.

18 students of B.Sc Zoology along with 4 faculty members of Bhairab Ganguly College, Kolkata visited the Centre's museum as part of their study tour visit to Ganjam coast, Odisha. Mr Arunendra Mohapatra, Sci. B delivered a talk on "Coastal Ecosystem and estuarine Fauna" to the students during their visit.

During the month, identification and advisory service on molluscs was

rendered by Mr. Mohapatra, to two M.Sc (Marine Biology) final year students of Dept. of Marine Sciences, Berhampur University, Odisha.

Republic Day was celebrated in the office campus and Mr. Arunendra Mohapatra, hoisted the National Flag in the presence of staff of EBRC.



Republic Day celebrations



Students of Bhairab Ganguly College Kolkata on a visit to EBRC



*Charybdis feriatus* (Linnaeus)



*Nibea maculata* (Bloch & Schneider)

## SUNDERBANS REGIONAL CENTRE, CANNING

The Centre identified twelve specimens of Orthoptera belonging to three species under two genera and two families. Dr. D. Suresh Chand, Sci. D participated in the hand-hold training on Budget and Expenditure Management System (BEMS) Web Application on Internet-entry in BEMS in the Ministry of Environment Forests & Climate Change, New Delhi, on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Axis bank officials from Canning visited the museum of the Centre.

### Publications

- Suresh Chand, D and Supriya Nandy.

2016. Biology of *Aiolopus thalassinus tumulus* (Fabr.) (Orthoptera: Acrididae) on a tolerant rice variety Dudheswar (*Oryza sativa* Linn) of Sundarban, West Bengal. *J. Applied Zool. Researches*, Vol 27 No. 2 pp 201-205

- Supriya Nandy and D. Suresh Chand. 2016. Seasonal abundance of two ray fishes, *Himantura bleekeri* (Blyth, 1860) and *Himantura imbricate* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801) in three fish landing centres of Sundarban Biosphere reserve, West Bengal. *J. Applied Zool. Researches*, Vol 27 No. 2 pp

181-18

- Anand Prakash, Jagadiswari Rao, N.K. Singh and D. Suresh Chand. 2016. Severe incidences of Aak grasshopper, *Poekilocerus*

*pictus* (Fabricius) (Orthoptera: Pyrgomorphidae) in and around Bhubaneswar, Odisha. *J. Applied Zool. Researches*, Vol 27 No. 2 pp191-192.

## NORTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE, DEHRADUN

The scientists of the Centre identified 282 exs. and registered 282 exs of fauna during the month. This includes 57 examples of pisces, 17 examples of soil nematodes, 154 examples of Lepidoptera and 56 examples of herpetofauna. Metadata of 20 entries of herpetofauna have been digitized (photographs 40).

Dr. Narender Sharma, Sci. D attended Budget & Expenditure Management System meeting



*Denus genutia* (Cramer)

at MoEFCC, New Delhi on 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month. Dr. Vinita Sharma, Sci. D, reviewed one manuscript for *Indian Journal of Forestry*.

Supervision was provided by Dr Archana Bahuguna (as Mentor & Co PI) to one Young Scientist (under DST/DISHA scheme) for a project on Molecular study of Western Himalayan lizards.

During the month 30 visitors visited the museum.



*Neophron percnopterus* (Linn.), Egyptian vulture

## MARINE AQUARIUM & REGIONAL CENTRE, DIGHA

A total of 66 fish specimens (18 species) and 45 molluscs specimens (9 species) were identified during this month and around 128 examples of live marine ornamental exhibits were collected for exhibition in aquarium galleries. Two rare fishes the Keeltail pomfret

*Taractes rubescens* Jordan and Evermann, 1887 and the Sunfish *Mola mola* (Linnaeus, 1758) were among the fishes collected and identified during this month. The marine aquarium of the centre received a total number of 24610 tourists during this month.

Among the exhibits the puffer fish, sucker fish, stingrays and clown fishes were the major attraction for the tourists.

#### Publication

- A. Mohapatra, P.C. Tudu, D. Ray (2015).



*Taractes rubescens*

First report of Mcadam's scorpion fish *Parascorpaena mcadamsi* (Fowler, 1938) from Indian waters. *Journal of Bombay Natural History Society* 112 (2): 104-106.



*Mola mola*

## FRESHWATER BIOLOGY REGIONAL CENTRE, HYDERABAD

The scientists of the Centre examined 110 specimens collected from Bhojlake, Bhopal; Sasthamkota lake, Kerala and Lakes of south Telangana. 20 species of fishes were identified from 36 exs, 3 species of gastropods from 22 exs, and 6 species of aquatic insects from 52 exs. Two local fauistic surveys were conducted to Nagarjunasagar Dam and Koilsagar Dam & Jurala Resorvoir

on 19<sup>th</sup> January. As part of the digitization of the National Zoological Collections of the centre, 20 spp. of fishes, 6 spp. of insects and 3 spp. of gastropods were digitized.



Shri. Ajay Narayan Jha, Secretary, MoEF&CC - at FBRC on 6th January



Republic Day celebration at FBRC, ZSI, Hyderabad

**ARUNACHAL PRADESH REGIONAL CENTRE, ITANAGAR**

Dr. S. D. Gurumayum led a combined survey to Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary, Lower Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh from 17<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> January 2017. A total of 906 faunal examples were collected from the survey, of which 86 are vertebrates and the remaining 820 were invertebrates. The collected faunal examples have been registered. 18 exs. of amphibians have been identified by Mr. M. Devanda and the data have been digitised. A total of 21 plankton samples have been sorted during this month.



Faunal collection at night at Mehao WLS



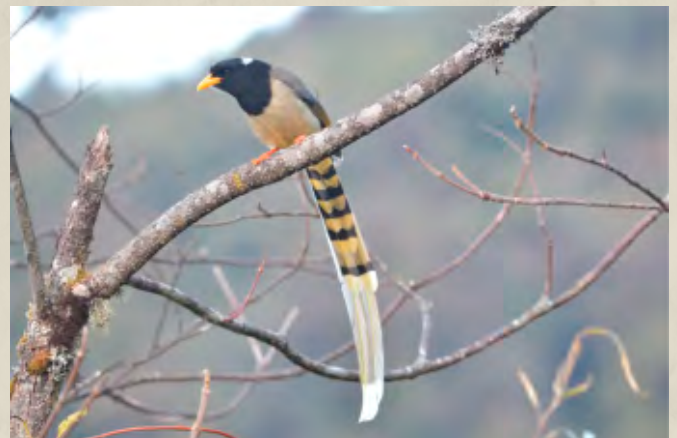
Trekking inside Mehao WLS

Dr. S. D. Gurumayum attended the state research committee meeting on Wildlife PAs of Arunachal Pradesh on 10<sup>th</sup> January at the office of PCCF, Itanagar. A total of 15 research proposals from various parts of India were evaluated. Dr. B. Sinha attended the meeting of the committee for approval of management plan of PAs of Arunachal Pradesh in the office of PCCF (WL/BD) on 20<sup>th</sup> January.

More than 60 visitors including 6 research scholars visited the Centre during the month.



Survey of Mehao WLS



*Urocissa flavirostris* at Mehao

## DESERT REGIONAL CENTRE, JODHPUR

During the month, identified and registered 6 species of butterflies and 4 species of fishes from the jurisdiction area. 27 specimens were digitized from NZC for RFD. Under the research programme on Studies on Faunal Diversity of Dry Grasslands of the Thar Desert, Dr. H. S. Banyal, Sci. D conducted surveys to Jamnagar, Porbandar, Rajkot, Surendranagar and Ahmedabad districts of Gujarat State from 17<sup>th</sup>– 31<sup>st</sup> January and collected 153 lots comprising of 1385 examples of class Insecta, Arachnida, Gastropoda and Amphibia.

Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Sci. D delivered an invited lecture as a resource person on Collection, Preservation and Identification of Insects in a Workshop on Faunal Identification and Conservation at Govt. Dungar College, Bikaner, Rajasthan on 6<sup>th</sup> January. He also attended a group of

students and teachers from Govt. Higher Sec. School, Sardarpura KiDhani, Pali, Rajasthan during their visit on 19<sup>th</sup> of the month to the Centre's museum and provided them information on fauna displayed.

On 6<sup>th</sup> January, Dr. H. S. Banyal, delivered a lecture on mandates of Desert Regional Centre & Faunal diversity of Rajasthan State & also provided scientific information on the fauna displayed in the museum to a group of teachers & students of various schools of Pali district on their visit to the centre under the technical tour organized by DST, Govt. of Rajasthan. He attended the CDDO training on BEMS at MOEF&CC, New Delhi on 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

Dr. Sanjeev Kumar hoisted National Flag on the occasion of 68<sup>th</sup> Republic Day of India at the Center. All the staff members participated in the ceremony.



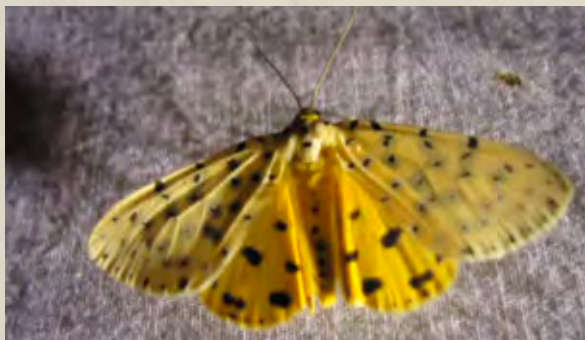
Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, delivering lecture at Govt. Dungar College, Bikaner, Rajasthan



Flag hoisting ceremony on the occasion of 68th Republic Day of India

## CENTRAL ZONE REGIONAL CENTRE, JABALPUR

During the month, the scientists of the Centre conducted faunistic survey of Bori Wildlife Sanctuary, District Hoshangabad of Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve, Madhya Pradesh. They identified and registered 16 species of Lepidoptera (moths), 3 species of Coleoptera (Coccinellidae), 7 species of Cerambycidae (Coleoptera), one species of Serpentes (Reptilia) and 3 species of Amphibia from districts Bhopal, Dindori,



*Argina astrea* (Drury, 1773)



*Creatonotus gangis* (Linnaeus, 1763)

Hoshangabad, Katni, Panna, Raisen and Sagar of Madhya Pradesh.

Shri S.S. Kamble, Sci. C attended a one day Training Workshop on Budget and Expenditure Management System Software on 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month at Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

A group of students of Small Wonders Senior Secondary School, Jabalpur visited the Centre's museum on 30<sup>th</sup> January.



*Maruca testulalis* (Geyer, 1832)



Students of Small Wonders Sr. Sec. School, Jabalpur on a visit to the museum

## MARINE BIOLOGY REGIONAL CENTRE, CHENNAI

The recovery of corals from the bleaching event in May 2016 has been assessed this

month, under the project 'Long-term monitoring of coral reefs in Lakshadweep'.

The permanent transects which were laid during the bleaching assessment have been revisited and sampled for live coral cover and other biophysical parameters. The preliminary analyses showed little or no recovery from the bleaching event, with a present live coral cover of  $10 \pm 3 \%$ , in these reefs.

A manuscript 'Faunal diversity in the mangroves of Bhitarkanika, Orissa' has been communicated for publication by Dr. C. Venkatraman, Scientist D, and Dr. P. Padmanaban, Assistant Zoologist of the

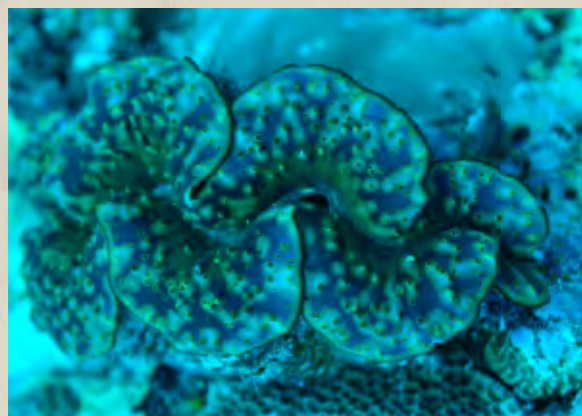


*Suffamen bursa* (Block & Schneider, 1801) Scythe Trigger fish

Centre. A total of 420 species belonging to 5 phyla under 14 classes have been dealt with. Significantly, the study reported 274 species of avifauna, which were found to be associated with this ecosystem.

#### Publication

- Rocktim R.D., Kantharajan G., Goutham, S., Samuel, D.V., Krishnan, P., Rajkumar, R., Purvaja, R. 2017. First report of *Antigona somwangi* Huber, 2010 (Mollusca: Bivalvia: Veneridae) from India. *Journal of Conchology* 42, No.5379.



*Tridacna gigas* (Linnaeus, 1758) giant clam

### GANGETIC PLAINS REGIONAL CENTRE, PATNA

During the month 13 species of Lepidoptera under 158 examples, 4 species of Rotifera from 19 examples, 5 species of Mollusca from 645 examples and 2 species of leeches from 2 examples were identified.

Dr Navneet Singh, Sci. D attended meeting

cum training on the 'Budget cum Expenditure Management Software (BEMS), at MoEF&CC on 24<sup>th</sup> of this month. The Centre celebrated Republic Day on 26<sup>th</sup> January, with full participation of officers and staff.

## WESTERN REGIONAL CENTRE, PUNE

During the month 3 species of Coleoptera (Coccinellidae), 10 species of Coleoptera (Carabidae), 7 species of aquatic Coleoptera and 15 species of Pisces were identified.

Identification and Advisory services rendered to the Medical Officer, Primary Health Centre, Kantneshwar, Maharashtra for nematode specimens. Advisory services were also provided to the Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board for one project.

Mr. Sreejith S. Kumar., Senior Zoological Assistant and Mr. Shripad V. Manthen, Junior Research Fellow participated in a two day training workshop on "Collection, Preservation and Identification of insects and mites of economic importance" held at ZSI HQ, Kolkata from 30<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> January.

A total number of 176 visitors from various schools and colleges visited the museum.

### Publication

- Bhatnagar, P.S. 2016. A Comparison of Fossils of the Two Whale Families: Physeteridae and Monodontidae (Cetacea). *Mong. J. Biol. Sci.* 14(1-2): 59-61.



Republic Day celebration at WRC, Pune

## NORTH EASTERN REGIONAL CENTRE, SHILLONG

During the month 10 examples of aquatic Hemiptera and 4 specimens of Chiroptera collected from the recent ESZ survey in Assam were identified. Images and metadata of 17 specimens of reptiles were also digitized.

Sh. A B Meetei, Sr. Zoological Assistant participated in the joint survey of Mehao WLS, Arunachal Pradesh conducted by APRC, Itanagar from 15<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> January.

Two research communications were published during the month.

Identification service was rendered to a

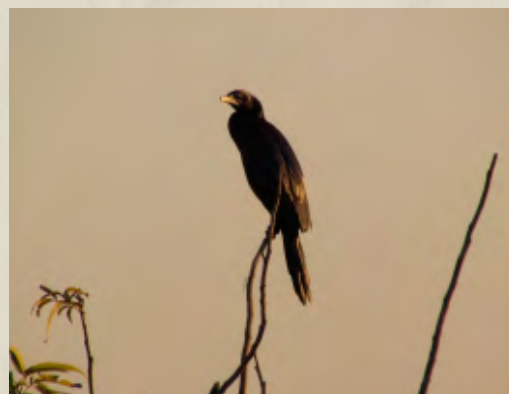
research scholar of the Dept of Zoology, Gauhati University.

### Publications

- Ilona Jacinta Kharkongor, Bhaskar Saikia and Rita Deb: Range extension of *Raorchestes manipurens* (Mathew and Sen, 2009) in Meghalaya, India *Records Zoological Survey of India* 116(3):317-319.
- Bhaskar Saikia and Ilona Jacinta Kharkongor: New record of *Duttaphryanus mizoramensis* (Mathew and Sen, 2009) in Tripura, India. *Records Zoological Survey of India* 116(3):321-322.



Banded Krait



Little cormorant

## HIGH ALTITUDE REGIONAL CENTRE, SOLAN

The local survey of the Eco-sensitive zone of the City Bird Sanctuary and Sukhna Wildlife sanctuary has been conducted on 18<sup>th</sup> January by Dr. Indu Sharma, Sci. D and Dr. Kamal Saini, Assistant Zoologist. Faunistic identification from the Centre includes 6 species of butterflies (out of 15 examples), 1 species of Pisces from Sangla valley, district Kinnaur, 4 species of butterflies (out of 23 examples) from North-West Himalaya, H.P. and 3 species of Pisces (out of 5 examples) from Govind Sagar Wetland. Dr. Kamal Saini, Assistant Zoologist identified outside material viz. 36 examples referable to 12 species of the Orthoptera received from DRC, ZSI, Jodhpur. Dr. Avtar Kaur Sidhu, Sci. D registered & digitized 28 examples and photographed 12 species of Lepidoptera from North-West Himalaya and the information on registered specimens has been entered in the Research Frame Document Formats.

Dr. Avtar Kaur Sidhu attended Narakaas Hindi meeting in DC office, Solan on 9<sup>th</sup> of the month which was presided by Sh.

Virender Kashyap, M. P., Himachal Pradesh. The Centre received third prize for best progress towards Hindi in the Year 2016-2017.

The 68<sup>th</sup> Republic day was celebrated, in which all officers and staff of HARC participated.

### Publication

- Sharma, G., Kamalakannan, M., Manna, C.K. and Dam, D. 2016. Tricho-taxonomic studies for identification of Wild Boar, *Sus scrofa* Linnaeus, 1758 by dorsal guard hairs (Suidae: Artiodactyla: Mammalia). *Rec. zool. Surv. India*. 116(3): 301-306.



Republic day celebration at HARC, ZSI, Solan

Palm Squirrel - *Funambulus palmarum*Pigeon - *Columba livia*

## SOUTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE, CHENNAI

During the month scientists of the Centre, identified specimens belonging to Rhizopoda, Rotifera, Cladocera, Plecoptera, Ephemeroptera, Trichoptera, Orthoptera and Odonata. One new species of *Ephemeroptera* from Western Ghat was described. The approval of AICOPTAX Project on Ephemeroptera was obtained. Two identification & advisory services were rendered during the month.

Dr. K. A. Subramanian, delivered an invited keynote address on "Biodiversity and Conservation of Hill Streams of Biodiversity Hotspots of India" at a National Seminar on Conservation of Freshwater Biodiversity-Under Changing Climate and Landcover at Department of Zoology, Kerala University,

Kariavattom, Trivandrum from 20-21<sup>st</sup> January. Dr. R. Babu, attended a training programme on "Budget and Expenditure Management System (BEMS) Web Application on the Internet" at Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, MoEF&CC, New Delhi on 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month. Dr. V. M. Sathish Kumar, delivered a lecture on Molecular Taxonomy to students from Fisheries College and Research Institute, Ponneri.

A scientist of the centre reviewed a paper for Journal of Threatened Taxa and also as a contributing author, reviewed two chapters for Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Asia-Pacific Report. One paper & one abstract has been accepted for publication.

## ANIMAL DISCOVERIES

## SPECIES DESCRIBED NEW TO SCIENCE

*Hamataliwa hellia* Dhali, Saha & Raychaudhuri

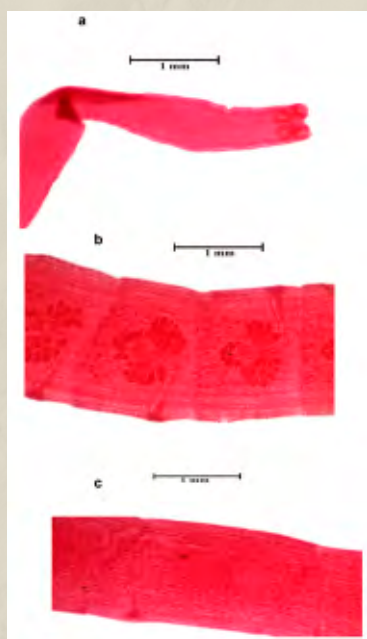
Dhali, D. C., Saha S. & Raychaudhuri, D. (2017). In Raychaudhuri, D. & Saha S. (Edts.). Monograph - Litter and ground dwelling spiders (Araneae: Arachnida) of reserve forests of Dooars, West Bengal. World Scientific News; Scientific Publishing House DARWIN" Poland, 63 (2017): 242 pp (EISSN 2392-2192).

*Golumiella metallica* Girish Kumar & Sureshan

P. Girish Kumar and P. M. Sureshan, (2016). Description of a new species of *Gollumiella* Hedqvist (Hymenoptera: Eucharitidae) from the Southern Western Ghats, India. *Records of Zoological Survey of India*, 116(Part-3): 197-200.

*Oochoristica aizawlensis* Suranjana, Manna & Sanyal

Suranjana Banerjee, Buddhadeb Manna and Ashok Kanti Sanyal, (2016). A review of the genus *Oochoristica* Luhe, 1898 with description of *Oochoristica aizawlensis* sp.n. (Platyhelminthes: Cestoidea) from *Calotes versicolor* from Mizoram, India. *North Bengal University Journal of Animal Sciences*, 10:57–68. ISSN 0975-1424. (Published online).



**ANIMAL DISCOVERIES****SPECIES DESCRIBED NEW TO SCIENCE**

*Pseudoceros galattheensis* Sudhanshu,  
Raghunathan & Chandra



*Pseudoceros nigropunctatus* Sudhanshu,  
Raghunathan & Chandra

Dixit, S., Raghunathan, C. and Chandra, K., (2017). Two new marine flatworms (Polycladida: Pseudocerotidae) from Andaman & Nicobar Islands, India. *Zootaxa*, 4221(1): 111-122.

**ANIMAL OF THE MONTH****NORTHERN PINTAIL (*Anus acuta* Linnaeus, 1758)**

**F**amily Anatidae commonly called as Ducks, Geese and Swans, are a very important groups of wetland birds. Globally there are 160 species of ducks of which 43 species are recorded from our country.

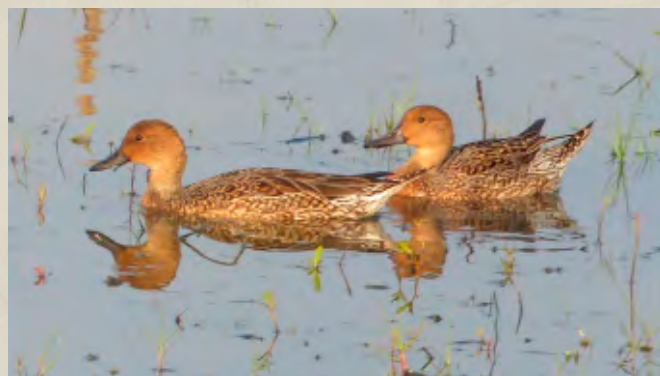
Northern pintail (*Anus acuta* Linnaeus, 1758) is a very common and widely distributed winter migrant duck species in India. They arrive in India by September-October from their breeding ground in central Siberia and central Asia and mostly depart by the end of February-March. They are seen in flocks of hundreds. They are generally shy, feed during nights and roost at day time. They are omnivorous, feeding chiefly on seeds of

grasses, aquatic plants and molluscs in jheels, lakes, rivers and marshy lands. They grow up to 55 to 75 cm. Sexual dimorphism is very prominent compared to other duck species. Males are brilliantly coloured, head-face-neck chocolate brown, nape black, bill plumbeous, lateral side of neck white, stripes run up to the white neck and breast; upper tail-coverts are grey edged with black, undertail-coverts black with broad buff patch in front. The tail is long, pointed and pin like (hence the common name). Females are mottled brown and buff with a pinless tail.

So far this species is categorised as Least concern (ver. 3.1) in IUCN red list category.



Male



Female

Contributed by Santanu Mitra, Senior Zoological Assistant, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.  
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