

**FISH BIODIVERSITY OF GODAVARI RIVER AT KOPERGAON AND
PRAVARA RIVER AT PRAVARA SANGAM IN DISTRICT AHMEDNAGAR,
MAHARASHTRA, INDIA**

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Fish diversity studies were undertaken during May 2013 to April 2014 to census and commercially important fishes in Godavari River at Kopergaon and Pravara River at Pravara Sangam in district Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, India. The results of present investigation reveal the occurrence of 12 fish species belonging to 4 orders, 8 families and 9 genera in Godavari River at Kopergaon and the occurrence of 15 fish species belonging to 5 orders, 7 families and 14 genera in Pravara River at Pravara Sangam.

Key words : Fish biodiversity, Godavari river, Pravara river

INTRODUCTION

Fishes are one of the most important group vertebrates. They constitute slightly more than one-half of total number of approximately 54,711 recognized living vertebrate species, there are description of an estimated 27,977 valid species of fishes. The fishes are important item in diet of many people (Nelson, 2006). Biodiversity is essential for stabilization of ecosystem, protection of overall environmental quality for understanding intrinsic worth of all species on the earth (Ehrlich & Wilson, 1991). The total length of rivers in India is about 29,000 km. All these rivers, their tributaries, canals and irrigation channels have an area roughly 13,000 km. Reversing fisheries of India comprises of five major river systems. They are Ganga river system, Brahmaputra river system, Indus river system, East coast river system and West coast river system (Pandey & Shukla, 2007).

The river Godavari originates from Trimbakeshwar near Nashik and finally flows into Bay of Bengal. The kopergaon (Longi. 70°30'E and Lat. 19° 56'N) is situated on the west bank of river Godavari. And the river Pravara is tributaries of river Godavari and it originates from Bhandardara village of Ahmednagar District. The Godavari and Pravara meet at Pravara Sangam (Long. 75° 67'E and Lat. 19° 67'N).

Present study investigation was undertaken to study the fish biodiversity of Godavari river, Kopergaon and Pravara river, Pravara Sangam, Dist. Ahmednagar (M.S.) India. The objective of study was to give recent data regarding fish diversity of the East coast river system, aiming to contribute a better knowledge of the fish diversity of Godavari and Pravara river and a tool for conservation planning of aquatic environment in this region.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Fishes were collected from Godavari river from Kopergaon and Pravara river from Pravara Sangam of Dist. Ahmednagar (M.S.) India, with the help of local fishermen using different type of nets namely gill nets, cast nets, drag nets, wadap net and Bhora net. The photographs of fishes were immediately taken with help of digital camera.

Fishes were brought to laboratory and preserved in 10% formalin solution in separate specimen jars according to the size of species. Small fishes were placed in the 10% formalin solution. While large fishes were giving an incision in their abdomen and preserved. The meristic and morphometric characters were measured and identified up to the species level, with the help of standard keys and books Day, 1967).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During the study period different fish varieties can be observed in the Godavari river at Kopergaon and Pravara river at Pravara Sangam, Dist. Ahmednagar (M.S.) India. The result can be seen both the area are rich in fish diversity. The fishes belonging to 4 orders 8 families were collected during study period. Many collected fishes are having economic importance and sold after collection in the local fish market. The results of present investigation reveal the occurrence of 12 fish species belonging to 4 orders, 8 families and 9 genera in Godavari River at Kopergaon and the occurrence of 15 fish species belonging to 5 orders, 7 families and 14 genera in Pravara River at Pravara Sangam during May 2013 to April 2014.

Table 1 : Fish diversity of Godavari river from Kopergaon.

Order	Family	Scientific name
Cypriniformes	Cyprinidae	<i>Puntius sophore</i>
		<i>Puntius ticto</i>
		<i>Salmostoma bacaila</i>
Cyprinodontiformes	Poeciliidae	<i>Poecilia reticulata</i>
Perciformes	Ambassidae	<i>Channa nama</i>
	Channidae	<i>Channa marulius</i>
		<i>Channa punctatus</i>
	Gobiidae	<i>Glossogobius giuris</i>
	Cichlidae	<i>Oreochromis niloticus</i>
		<i>Oreochromis mossambicus</i>
Siluriformes	Bragridae	<i>Mystus cavasius</i>
	Siluridae	<i>Ompok malbaricus</i>

Table II : Fish diversity of Pravara river from Pravara Sangam.

Order	Family	Scientific name
Osteoglossiformes	Notopteridae	<i>Notopterus notopterus</i>
		<i>Catla catla</i>
		<i>Garra lamta</i>
		<i>Chela bacila</i>
Cypriniformes	Cyprinidae	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>
		<i>Puntius ticto</i>
		<i>Cirrhinus mrigala</i>
		<i>Labeo rohita</i>
		<i>Gambusia affinis</i>
		<i>Lepidocephalus guntea</i>
		<i>Mystus aor</i>
		<i>Mystus seenghala</i>
Siluriformes	Siluridae	<i>Wallaga attu</i>
Mugiliformes	Mugilidae	<i>Mugil cephalus</i>
Synbranchiformes	Cichlidae	<i>Oreochromis mossambica</i>

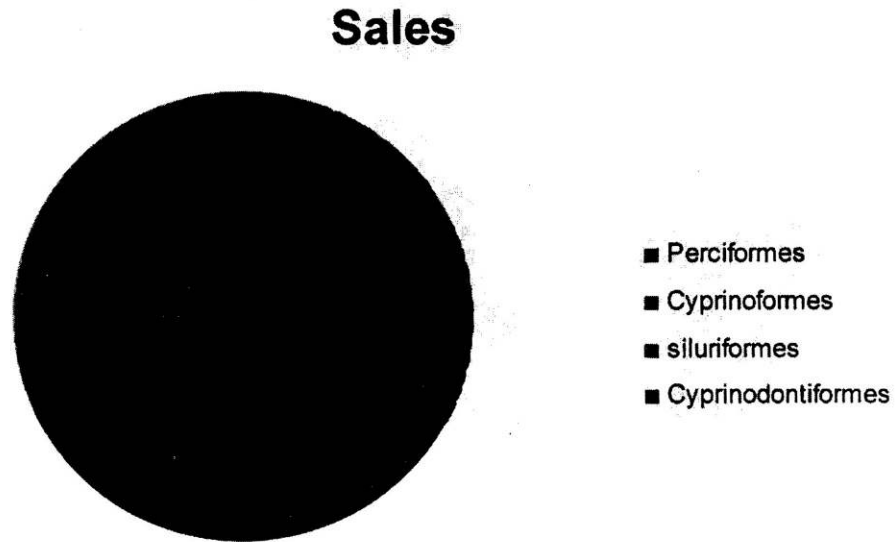


Fig. 1 : Order wise fish composition at Godavari river, Kopergaon, Dist Ahmednagar. From Pravara river at Pravara sngam the member of order Cyprinoformes were dominated by 8 species, Osteoglossiformes with 4 species, Siluriformes , Mugiliformes , Synbranchiformes with 1 species.

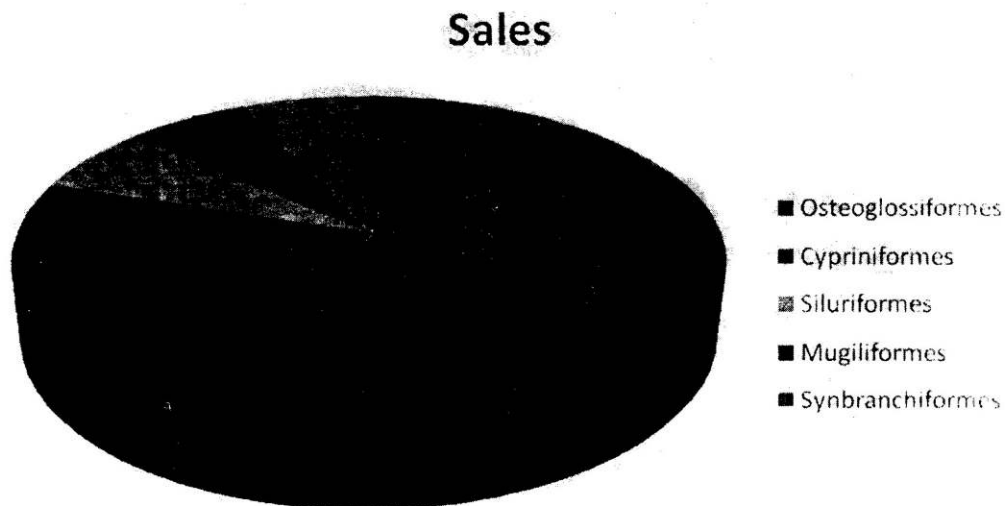


Fig. 2 : Order wise fish composition at Pravara river, Pravara Sangam, Dist Ahmednagar.

From Godavari river at Kopergaon the member of order Perciformes were dominated by 6 species, Cypriniformes with 3 species, Siluriformes with 2 species and cyprinodontiformes with 1 species.

The occurrence of 23 fish species belonging to 7 orders in Jawalgaon reservoir in Solapur district of Maharashtra. The fishes belonging to order Cypriniformes were dominant with 11 species to be followed by fishes of order Siluriformes 4 species, Osteoglossiformes, Perciformes and Channiformes were represented by 2 species and rest of order by single species (Sakhare, 2001). Reported 34 species of fishes in reservoir of Parbhani Dist. Of Maharashtra (Sakhare & Joshi, 2003). Reported the Ichthyofauna of Harsool-Savangi Dam Aurangabad(M.S.) India. Total 15 fish species belonging to 3 orders, 4 families and 12 genera. The order Cypriniformes found dominant with 11 species, followed by perciformes 3 species and Siluriformes with 1 species Shinde et al., 2009).

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