



FISH FAUNA OF MOD SAGAR RESERVOIR OF JHABUA DISTRICT, M.P.

N. K. Dhakad, Deepak Shinde* and Preeti Choudhary**

Department of Zoology, Govt. Autonomous Holkar Science College, Indore, M.P.

*Department of Zoology, Govt. P. G. College, Jhabua, M.P.

**Department of Zoology, Govt. P. G. College, Dhar-454 001, M.P.

ABSTRACT

The main aim of the present study was to investigate the species composition of fishes of Mod Sagar reservoir of Jhabua district. A limno-ichthyological study was conducted for one year (May 2006 to April 2007) and various indigenous and commercial fishes of importance were found in this reservoir. The present paper deals with the variety and abundance of freshwater fishes of this reservoir.

INTRODUCTION

Fishes constitute economically a very important group of animals. The nutritional and medicinal value of fishes have already been recognized (Hora & Pillay 1962, David 1969, Mishra 1952, Jhingran 1982). A number of large artificially constructed fish water impoundments have come into existence in India, especially during last four decades, adding considerably to the already existing rich water potential for the development of the country's fishery resources. Fish fauna of various reservoirs has been reported by David (1969), Sharma et al. (2004) and Jhingran (1982). The Mod Sagar reservoir in Jhabua district, M.P. has been extensively used for irrigation, drinking water supply and fish culture but its fish fauna is not reported till now.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Mod Sagar reservoir is located in the Ranapur block of Jhabua district, about 28 kilometres from Jhabua township. The average rainfall of Jhabua is 888 mm. Mod Sagar reservoir is a big man-made reservoir with a catchments area of 51.2 square kilometres. It lies between latitude 22°34'N and longitude 74°31'E at an average altitude of 428 meters above mean sea level. The dam is built across the river Mod, a tributary of Anas river. The reservoir is situated in Mahi river basin and is mainly used for irrigation, drinking water supply and fish culture purposes.

During the present study fishes were collected from four sampling stations with the help of local fishermen. Fresh fishes were brought to the laboratory and preserved in formalin solution. The identification of fish was done with the help of standard keys and books (Mishra 1952, Day 1978).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In Mod Sagar reservoir twenty nine species of fishes were found belonging to four different Orders of Subclass Actinopterygii of Class Teleostomi viz., Cypriniformes, Perciformes, Ophiocephaliformes and Mastacembeleformes (Table 1). Fishes of Order Cypriniformes dominated the fish fauna of the reservoir with twenty two species falling under two families of Division Cyprini and four Families of Division Siluri. Genus *Labeo* and *Puntius* of Family Cyprinidae (Division: Cyprini) were abundant with three species each followed by genus *Mystus* of Family Bagridae (Division: Siluri).

Table 1: Fish fauna of Mod Sagar reservoir, Jhabua district, M.P.

Order: Cypriniformes, Division: Cyprini, Family: Cyprinidae, Sub-Family: Cyprininae		
<i>Catla catla</i>	(Ham.)	Major Carp
<i>Cirrhinus mrigala</i>	(Ham.)	Major Carp
<i>Labeo rohita</i>	(Ham.)	Major Carp
<i>Labeo calbasu</i>	(Ham.)	Major Carp
<i>Labeo dero</i>	(Ham.)	Minor Carp
<i>Oxygaster clupeoides</i>	(Bloch)	Miscellaneous
<i>Puntius sophore</i>	(Ham.)	Miscellaneous
<i>Puntius ticto</i>	(Ham.)	Miscellaneous
<i>Puntius titius</i>	(Ham.)	Miscellaneous
<i>Chela lubuca</i>	(Ham.)	Miscellaneous
<i>Garra gotyla</i>	(Gray)	Miscellaneous
<i>Rasbora daniconius</i>	(Ham.)	Forage Fish
Family: Cobitidae Sub-Family: Cobitini		
<i>Lepidocephalichthys guntea</i>	(Ham.)	Miscellaneous
<i>Nemacheilus aureus</i>	(Day)	Miscellaneous
Division : Siluri Family: Siluridae		
<i>Ompok bimaculatus</i>	(Ham.)	Catfish
<i>Wallago attu</i>	(Bl. & Schn.)	Catfish
Family: Bagridae		
<i>Mystus bleekeri</i>	(Day)	Catfish
<i>Mystus cavasius</i>	(Ham.)	Catfish
<i>Mystus seenghala</i>	(Skyes)	Catfish
Family: Saccobranchidae		
<i>Heteropneustes fossilis</i>	(Bloch)	Live Fish
Family: Claridae		
<i>Clarias batrachus</i>	(Linn.)	Live Fish
Order: Perciformes Sub-Order: Percoidei Family: Centropomidae		
<i>Chanda nama</i>	(Ham.)	Miscellaneous
Sub-Order: Gobioidae Family: Gobiidae Sub-Family: Gobiini		
<i>Glossogobius guiruri</i>	(Ham.)	Miscellaneous
Order: Ophiocephaliformes Family: Ophiocephalidae		
<i>Channa gachua</i>	(Ham.)	Live Fish
<i>Channa marulius</i>	(Ham.)	Live Fish
Order: Mastacembeliformes Family: Mastacembelidae		
<i>Mastacembelus armatus</i>	(Lacepede)	
<i>Mastacembelus pancalus</i>	(Ham.)	

Apart from these fishes freshwater prawn (*Macrobrachium* species) was also found in the reservoir. As per the information from local fishermen and Fisheries Department of Jhabua, Mahasher (*Tor tor*) is also reported in this reservoir but it was not found in our collection during the study period.

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