Review Paper

THE STATUS OF FRESHWATER FISH FAUNA IN BANGLADESH

Gawsia Wahidunnessa Chowdhury
Department of Fisheries and Marine Science
Noakhali Science and Technology University
Sonapur, Noakhali, Bangladesh
email: gawsia@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Fish biodiversity in the freshwaters of Bangladesh has been reviewed in this paper. The total number of freshwater fish species recorded as 251. Excessive use of aquatic resources is the main threat to the fish and fisheries resources of Bangladesh. Recommendations are made for registration, proper documentation and scientific research on Ichthyodiversity in freshwater habitats in Bangladesh.

Key words: Fishes, habits, habitats.

INTRODUCTION

Bangladesh is the country of rivers, diverse aquatic wealth and climate suitable for high yields and considerable increase in fish production. The major river systems (the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna) flow into the sea through Bangladesh. A fairly large number of big rivers with their tributaries and branches criss-crossed the country. All these rivers have extensive floodplains along their course. In Bangladesh inland fisheries production is an integrated system in the rivers, floodplains and other natural depressions (locally known as beels and haors), all connected by canals (khals). Due to extensive water and land re-modelling efforts in the name of flood control, drainage and irrigation projects, wetlands of Bangladesh have drastically changed the country's waterbodies and landscape. It has altered and modified the natural habitats and ecosystems of the aquatic fauna and flora of the country.

There are about 29,000 species of fishes worldwide. In Bangladesh, there are 251 freshwater, 442 marine fish species. The knowledge of the freshwater fish fauna of Bangladesh began with the work of Francis Hamilton published in 1822. The next scientific account of the fish fauna of the Indian sub-continent including Bangladesh was done by Francis Day during 1875-78. Other authors who contributed significantly to the studies of freshwater fish fauna of Bangladesh and India are Shaw and Shebbeare (1937), Ahmed (1953), Bhuiyan (1964), Shafi and Quddus (2001), Talwar and Jhingran (1991) and Jayaram (1999). Rahman (2005) recorded as many as 265 species of freshwater fishes in Bangladesh belonging to 154 genera and 55 families.

OBSERVATIONS

The paper includes 251 freshwater species in 61 families under 17 orders. The systematic arrangement of freshwater fish fauna of Bangladesh has been prepared here on the basis of the direction followed by Nelson (1994) with slight modification in certain taxa. As for example the

Snake-head family, Channidae, has been placed under order Channiformes which was earlier placed under a sub-order of Perciformes by Nelson (1994). The system of presentation of classification in this paper is the arrangement of orders and families phylogenetically following principally the work of Jordan (1923), Greenwood *et al.* (1966), Nelson (1994) and FAO Fishbase data. The genera and species under each family are arranged alphabetically. All the orders, families, genus and species have been arranged by a serial number in this paper.

The freshwater fishes of Bangladesh exhibit enormous diversity in their morphology, in their habitats and their biology. About 16 species, belonging to 4 families, recorded as exotic, were introduced in the country during the last five decades. These include, among others, the Common Carp, Silver Carp, Grass Carp, Nilotica and Piranha. These species have have been largely introduced in the closed water fish culture systems of the country. These exotic fishes, as have successfully established themselves in the freshwater habitats, have been included in this list.

FRESHWATER FISHES OF BANGLADESH

Phylum: Chordata
Class: Osteichthyes
Order: Osteoglossiformes
Family: Notopteridae
Genus: *Chitala* Fowler, 1934
1. *Chitala chitala* (Hamilton 1822)
English names: Humped Featherback, Clown Knife Fish
Local names: Chital, Chetol, Chitna
Habits and habitats: Demersal, carnivore, piscivore and predator.
Genus: *Notopterus* Lacepede, 1800
2. *Notopterus notopterus* (Pallas 1769)
English name: Grey Featherback
Local names: Foli, Pholui, Haila, Kanla
Habits and habitats: A predatory and carnivorous fish.
Order: Elopiformes
Family: Megalopidae
Genus: *Megalops* Lacepede, 1803
3. *Megalops cyprinoides* (Broussonet 1782)
English names: Indo-Pacific Tarpon, Oxeye Tarpon
Local name: Nanchil Koral
Habits and habitats: Coastal pelagic species, enters estuaries, lagoons and fresh waters. Feeds on small crustaceans and fishes.
Order: Anguilliformes
Family: Anguillidae
Genus: *Anguilla* Schrank, 1798
4. *Anguilla bengalensis* (Gray 1831)
English names: Giant Mottled Eel, Indian Longfin Eel
Local names: Bamosh, Banehara, Baow Baim
Habits and habitats: Demersal, catadromous, active at night. Feeds on a wide range of prey, especially crabs, frogs and fish.
Family: Moringuidae
Genus: *Moringua* Gray, 1831
5. *Moringua raitaborua* (Hamilton 1822)
English name: Purple Spaghetti-eel
Local name: Rata Borua
Habits and habitats: Bottom-dwelling carnivore, subsisting mainly on a fish diet.
Family: Muraenidae
Genus: *Gymnothorax* Bloch, 1795
6. *Gymnothorax tile* (Hamilton 1822)
English name: Moray Eel
Local name: Bamosh
Habits and habitats: Estuaries and river mouths. Demersal; anadromous. Carnivorous, feeds mainly on fish.
Family: Muraenesocidae
Genus: *Congresox* Gill, 1890
7. *Congresox talabon* (Cuvier 1829)
English name: Yellow Pike Conger
Local name: Kamila
Habits and habitats: Nocturnal, feeds on benthic fishes and crustaceans. Ascends tidal rivers. Lives in coastal waters and estuaries over the soft bottom down to about 100 m.
8. *Congresox talabonoides* (Bleeker 1853)
English name: Indian Pike Conger
Local name: Kamila
Habits and habitats: Nocturnal, feeds mainly on benthic fishes and crustaceans. A fish of the Bay of Bengal, ascends tidal rivers.

Genus: *Muraenesox* McClelland, 1843
9. *Muraenesox bagio* (Hamilton 1822)
English names: Common Pike Conger, False Conger Eel
Local names: Kamila, Kamilay
Habits and habitats: Demersal, oceanodromous. Solitary carnivore. Feeds on benthic fishes and crustaceans. *M. bagio* is nocturnal in habit
Family: Ophichthidae
Genus: *Pisodonophis* Kaup, 1856
10. *Pisodonophis boro* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Rice Paddy Eel, Boro Snake-eel, Bengal's Snake Eel
Local names: Kharu, Hijra
Habits and habitats: Carnivorous, subsisting mainly on a fish diet. Food items consist of small bony fish, crustaceans and cephalopods.
11. *Pisodonophis cancrivorus* (Richardson, 1844)
English name: Longfin Snake Eel
Local name: Baim
Habits and habitats: Reef-associated; anadromous, snakelike body enabling them to negotiate seemingly inaccessible areas to hunt for food or to escape from enemies.
Order: Clupeiformes
Family: Clupeidae
Genus: *Corica* Hamilton, 1822
12. *Corica soborna* Hamilton, 1822
English name: Ganges River-sprat
Local names: Kachki, Subarna-kharika
Habits and habitats: Moves in groups at the surface of rivers and lakes. Feeds primarily on zooplankton and also some invertebrates.
Genus: *Gonialosa* Regan, 1917
13. *Gonialosa manmina* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Ganges River Gizzard Shad
Local names: Chapila, Goni Chapila
Habits and habitats: Pelagic; amphidromous; plankton feeders.
Genus: *Ilisha* Richardson, 1846
14. *Ilisha megaloptera* (Swainson, 1839)
English name: Bigeye Ilisha
Local name: Choukka
Habits and habitats: Feeds on fishes, crustaceans, amphipods, occasionally polychaetes, tunicates and small amounts of algae and diatoms.
Genus: *Pellona* Valenciennes, 1847
15. *Pellona ditchela* Valenciennes, 1847
English names: Indian Pellona, Big-eyed Herring
Local name: Choukka
Habits and habitats: Euryhaline, anadromous, pelagic, plankton feeder, feeds on small planktonic organisms, especially diatoms.
Genus: *Tenualosa* Fowler, 1934
16. *Tenualosa ilisha* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: River Shad, Hilsa Shad
Local names: Ilish, Ilsha
Habits and habitats: Marine, pelagic and schooling in coastal waters, anadromous and ascends rivers far above tidal influence.
17. *Tenualosa toli* (Valenciennes, 1847)
English names: Toli Shad, Shad
Local name: Chandona Ilish
Habits and habitats: Euryhaline, anadromous, pelagic, schooling in coastal waters. Feeds on plankton, mainly by filter-feeding, but apparently also by grubbing on the muddy bottoms; diatoms, protozoans, crustaceans, molluscs and tunicates are recorded food items.
Family: Engraulidae
Genus: *Coilia* Gray, 1830
18. *Coilia dussumieri* Valenciennes, 1848
English name: Gold Spotted Grenadier Anchovy
Local name: Olua
Habits and habitats: Found in estuaries and the Bay of Bengal. Enters tidal rivers. Feeds on copepods, prawns and fish larvae, crustacean larvae and polychaete larvae.
19. *Coilia ramcarati* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Ramcarat Grenadier Anchovy, Tapetail Anchovy, Rat-tailed Anchovy
Local names: Megha Olua, Olua
Habits and habitats: A schooling species found in coastal waters, estuaries and tidal rivers. Feeds on copepods, prawns and fish larvae, crustacean larvae and polychaete larvae.
Genus: *Gudusia* Fowler, 1911
20. *Gudusia chapra* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Indian River Shad
Local names: Chapila, Suiya, Suhia, Guri, Chaipla, Khaira
Habits and habitats: Omnivorous and surface feeder. Feeds mainly on phytoplankton, zooplankton, debris, plant and animal matters. Lives in shoals.
Genus: *Setipinna* Swainson, 1839
21. *Setipinna phasa* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Gangetic Hairfin Anchovy

Local names: Phasa, Phasa Kata, Phausa, Teltampri

Habits and habitats: An omnivore. Feeds mainly on unicellular and multicellular algae, protozoans and crustaceans.

22. *Setipinna taty* (Valenciennes, 1848)

English name: Scaly Hairfin Anchovy

Local name: Teli Phasa

Habits and habitats: An omnivore. Feeds mainly on unicellular and multicellular algae, protozoans and crustaceans. Adults feed mostly on mysids and small prawns.

Genus: *Thryssa* Cuvier, 1829

23. *Thryssa purava* (Hamilton, 1822)

English names: Oblique Jaw Thryssa, Gangetic Anchovy

Local name: Fasha

Habits and habitats: Inhabits coastal waters, pelagic, presumably schooling, mostly inshore, able to tolerate low salinity in estuarine conditions. Feeds on diatoms when young and prawn larvae, copepods and *Cypris* when adult.

Order: Gonorhynchiformes

Family: Chanidae

Genus: *Chanos* Lacepede, 1803

24. *Chanos chanos* (Forsskål, 1775)

English name: Milkfish

Local name: Chanos Machh

Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, catadromous. Larvae eat zooplankton; juveniles and adults eat cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), soft algae, small benthic invertebrates, and even pelagic fish eggs and larvae.

Order: Channiformes

Family: Channidae

Genus: *Channa* Scopoli, 1777

25. *Channa barca* (Hamilton, 1822)

Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic; potamodromous. The species is carnivorous, prefers live food but it has a peculiar habit of travelling into mustard plant fields to eat the flowers.

English name: Barca Snakehead

Local names: Pipla, Tila Shol, Tila

26. *Channa marulius* (Hamilton, 1822)

English names: Giant Snakehead, Bullseye Snakehead, Great Snakehead, Cobra Snakehead

Local names: Gajar, Gajal, Gajari

Habits and habitats: *C. marulius* is an extremely voracious predator with an ability to move overland for short distances. Consumes primarily fishes, frogs, snakes, insects, earthworms and tadpoles. The species is cannibalistic since small snakeheads often become prey for larger specimens.

27. *Channa orientalis* Bloch and Schneider, 1801

English names: Asiatic Snakehead, Walking Snakehead

Local names: Gachua, Raga, Ragha, Cheng

Habits and habitats: *C. orientalis* usually hides under the cover of marginal roots of aquatic vegetation. It can tolerate stagnant, poorly oxygenated, turbid and very foul water containing city wastes (Rahman, 2005). It h
an amphibious mode of life and can remain alive out of water for a long time. It is a voracious eater and is attracted by any moving bait. It feeds largely on insects, crustaceans and small fish. It is carnivorous and destroys eggs and fries of other fishes.

28. *Channa punctatus* (Bloch, 1793)

English name: Spotted Snakehead

Local names: Taki, Lata, Lati, Okol, Chaitan

Habits and habitats: Great predators. Oviparous; carnivorous; solitary or in pairs, highly gregarious when young. Young (1.5-3.0 cm) feed primarily on zooplankton, with rotifers, insects and crustacean larvae constituting most of the diet. Adults consume fishes, insects, and aquatic vegetation. The species is an opportunistic feeder.

29. *Channa striatus* (Bloch, 1793)

English names: Snakehead Murrel, Stripped Snakehead

Local name: Shol

Habits and habitats: The fish is carnivorous and subsists on a variety of living creatures including fishes, frogs, snakes, insects, earthworms and tadpoles.

Order: Cypriniformes

Family: Cyprinidae

Genus: *Amblypharyngodon* Bleeker, 1860

30. *Amblypharyngodon microlepis* (Bleeker 1853)

English name: Indian Carplet

Local name: Mola

Habits and habitats: An omnivore. Surface and column feeder. Feeds unicellular algae, protozoans, rotifers and crustaceans, debris and

plant parts. Moves in shoals along the surface.

31. *Amblypharyngodon mola* (Hamilton, 1822)

English names: Mola Carplet, Pale Carplet

Local names: Mola, Moa, Molongi, Mowka, Moraru, Mowrala, Mouchi

Habits and habitats: An omnivore. Surface and column feeder. Feeds unicellular algae, protozoans, rotifers and crustaceans, debris and plant parts. Moves in shoals through the surface.

Genus: *Aristichthys* Oshima, 1919

32. *Aristichthys nobilis* (Richardson, 1844)

English name: Bighead Carp

Local name: Bighead

Habits and habitats: Bighead Carp is being able to tolerate water temperatures of 0.5-38°C. It inhabits lakes, rivers and reservoirs. This species normally dwells in the upper layer of the water column and prefers high fertility water with abundant natural food.

Genus: *Aspidoparia* Heckel, 1843

33. *Aspidoparia jaya* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Jaya

Local names: Jaya, Peali, Peashi

Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic. Inhabits rivers, streams and ponds in plains and mountainous regions.

34. *Aspidoparia morar* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Aspidopara

Local names: Morari, Morar

Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic. Inhabits rivers and streams.

Genus: *Barbonymus* Kottelat, 1999

35. *Barbonymus gonionotus* (Bleeker, 1850)

English name: Java Barb

Local names: Thai Sarpunti, Rajpunti

Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic; potamodromous. Feeds on plant matters (e.g. leaves, weeds, *Ipomea reptans* and *Hydrilla*) and invertebrates. Inhabits rivers, lakes, and other freshwater areas.

Genus: *Barilius* Hamilton, 1822

36. *Barilius barila* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Barred Barila

Local names: Barali, Koksa

Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic. Feeds on aquatic vegetations, crustaceans and insect larvae.

37. *Barilius barna* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Barna Baril

Local names: Koksa, Bani Koksa

Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic. A voracious little fish. Feeds on other fishes, insects, etc.

38. *Barilius bendelisis* (Hamilton, 1807)

English name: Hamilton's Barila

Local names: Joia, Hiralu, Tila, Chedra, Koksa

Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, potamodromous. Feeds on aquatic microorganisms, insects, plants, etc.

39. *Barilius shacra* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Shacra Baril

Local names: Koksa, Saku Koksha

Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, lives in hilly streams with a bed of rocks and gravels. Feeds on algae, detritus and other benthic organisms.

40. *Barilius tileo* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Tileo Baril

Local names: Tila, Tila Koksa, Patharchata

Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, Feeds on algae, detritus and other benthic organisms. Inhabits rivers and streams adjoining hills with gravelly and rocky bottoms.

41. *Barilius vagra* (Hamilton, 1822)

English names: Vagra Baril, Hill Trout

Local names: Koksa, Khoksa, Vagra, Vegra

Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, Feeds on algae, detritus and other benthic organisms.

Genus: *Bengala* Gray, 1833

42. *Bengala elanga* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Bengala Barb

Local names: Elong, Sephatia, Elanga

Habits and habitats: Pelagic, demersal, omnivorous. Main food comprises aquatic insects, algae, and protozoans.

Genus: *Catla* Valenciennes, 1844

43. *Catla catla* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Catla

Local names: Catla, Katal

Habits and habitats: Occurs in rivers, lakes and culture ponds. Surface and mid-water feeders, mainly omnivorous with juveniles feeding on insects, detritus and phytoplankton. Main food consists of algae, crustaceans and higher plants.

Genus: *Chagunius* Smith, 1938

44. *Chagunius chagunio* (Hamilton, 1822)

English names: Chaguni (India), Medium Carp (Nepal)

Local names: Jarua, Utti

Habits and habitats: Adults prefer to stay in rivers with rocky bottoms and strong currents Feeds on insects, algae and detritus around rocks and boulders. Large, clear water, fast flowing streams with rocky and gravelly bottoms are preferable habitats.

Genus: *Chela* Hamilton, 1822

45. *Chela cachius* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Silver Hatchet Chela

Local names: Chep Chela, Kachni

Habits and habitats: Pelagic, larvivorous, feeds on insects and also on stem and leaf tissue.

46. *Chela laubuca* (Hamilton, 1822)

English names: Indian Grass Barb, Blue Laubuca

Local name: Laubuca, Kash Khaira

Habits and habitats: Pelagic, depth range 0-2 m; inhabits the middle-depth area of stagnant streams, ponds and tanks. Lives in shoals of 15-30 individuals. Larvivorous, feeds on insects and also on stem and leaf tissue.

Genus: *Cirrhinus* Oken, 1817

47. *Cirrhinus cirrhosus* (Bloch, 1795)

English names: Mrigal Carp, Mrigal

Local names: Mrigal, Mirka

Habits and habitats: It is essentially a plankton feeder, but also browses on algae in marginal shallows. Juveniles are omnivorous, adults are herbivorous.

48. *Cirrhinus reba* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Reba

Local names: Bhagna, Raik, Tatkini, Bata, Laacho

Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, potamodromous, plankton feeder and prolific breeder

Genus: *Crossocheilus* van Hasselt, 1823

49. *Crossocheilus latius* (Hamilton, 1822)

English names: Gangetic Latia, Hill-stream Carp

Local name: Kala Bata

Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic; potamodromous. Feeds on algae on the muddy bottoms. A bottom-feeding herbivore taking more than 90% plant food, such as algae, diatoms and macrophytes as well as detritus.

Genus: *Ctenopharyngodon* Steindachner, 1866

50. *Ctenopharyngodon idella* (Valenciennes 1844)

English names: Grass Carp, White Amur

Local names: Grass Carp, Grass Cup

Habits and habitats: Feeds on higher aquatic plants and submerged grasses, also takes detritus, insects and other invertebrates. Adults are exclusively herbivorous whereas the juveniles subsist on zooplankton and other animal matter.

Genus: *Cyprinus* Linnaeus, 1758

51. *Cyprinus carpio* Linnaeus, 1758

English name: Common Carp

Local names: Carpu, Carphu

Habits and habitats: This fish is omnivorous, feeding mainly on aquatic insects, crustaceans, annelids, molluscs, weeds and tree seeds, wild rice, aquatic plants and algae. It is thermophilic, gregarious, dwelling mostly at the bottom of ponds.

Genus: *Danio* Hamilton, 1822

52. *Danio dangila* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Dangila Danio

Local name: Nipati

Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, feeds on worms and small crustaceans, also on insect larvae.

53. *Danio rerio* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Zebra Danio

Local name: Anju

Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, feeds on worms and small crustaceans, also on insect larvae.

Genus: *Devario* Heckel, 1843

54. *Devario aequipinnatus* (McClelland, 1839)

English names: Giant Danio, Bengal Danio

Local name: Chebli

Habits and habitats: Inhabits still and slow-moving rivers and streams. Feeds on worms, crustaceans and insects; moves in schools, Benthopelagic.

55. *Devario devario* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Sind Danio

Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic; feeds on worms, small crustaceans and insects. Hovers near the surface of water during jute retting.

Local names: Bashpata, Chebli, Debashi, Chapchela, Debari

Genus: *Esomus* Swainson, 1839

56. *Esomus danricus* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Flying Barb

Local names: Darkina, Danrika, Darka, Dadhika

Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, potamodromous. This species is very active and equipped with exceptionally wide pectoral fins.

Genus: *Garra* Hamilton, 1822

57. *Garra annandalei* Hora, 1921
English name: Annandale Log Sucker, Stone Roller, Annandale Garra
Local name: Ghor Poa
Habits and habitats: They adhere to rocks with the help of the suctorial disc on the chin. Food consists mainly of algal felts on the stones. Benthopelagic
58. *Garra gotyla* (Gray, 1832)
English names: Gotyla, Sucker Head
Local name: Ghor Poia
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic. Feeds on algae, plants and detritus. Inhabits streams and lakes.
Genus: *Hypophthalmichthys* Bleeker, 1860
59. *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix* (Valenciennes, 1844)
English name: Silver Carp
Local names: Silver Carp, Silver Cup
Habits and habitats: Lives in the surface layer and feeds on phytoplankton and zooplankton It is principally a phytoplankton feeder and is known to compete with Catla for food.
Genus: *Labeo* Cuvier, 1817
60. *Labeo angra* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Angra Labeo
Local names: Angrot, Kharsa, Kharish
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, potamodromous. Found in rivers, lakes and ponds. Mainly feeds on insect larvae, freshwater shrimps and other crustaceans, worms and snails as well as some plant matter.
61. *Labeo bata* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Bata Labeo
Local names: Bata, Bhangan Bata
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic and potamodromous. The species seems to be a bottom-feeder, depends mainly on aquatic plants
62. *Labeo boga* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Boga Labeo
Local names: Bhangan, Bhangan Bata
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, potamodromous. Feeds on plankton, algae, aquatic plants, crustaceans, etc.
63. *Labeo boggut* (Sykes, 1838)
English name: Boggut Labeo
Local names: Ghania, Gohria
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, Plankton-feeder
64. *Labeo calbasu* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Black Rohu, Kalbasu, Orange Fin Labeo
Local names: Kalibaus, Baus, Kalia
Habits and habitats: This species is a bottom-dwelling species, feeds on organic matter, molluscs, diatoms, plant matter, green-algae, blue-green algae and zooplankton. The fish is selective in feeding. Juveniles prefer zooplanktonic organisms, while the adults prefer organic matter and molluscs.
65. *Labeo dero* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Kalabans
Local names: Kursha, Katal Kushi
Habits and habitats: Herbivorous. Feeds mainly on aquatic debris and detritus.
Inhabits rivers and sides of torrential hill-streams in shallow waters. Adults migrate to warmer regions of lakes and streams during the winter.
66. *Labeo gonius* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Kuria Labeo
Local names: Ghannya, Goni, Kurchi
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, potamodromous. Feeds on phytoplankton, algae and crustaceans.
67. *Labeo nandina* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Nandi Labeo
Local names: Nandina, Nandil, Nandi, Nanid
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic and potamodromous.
68. *Labeo pangusia* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Pangusia Labeo
Local names: Ghora Muikkha, Ghora Machh, Longu Rui
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, potamodromous. Feeds mostly on algae and diatoms, grazes on aquatic plants.
69. *Labeo rohita* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Rohu, Rohu Carp
Local names: Rui, Rohit, Rohu, Rau
Habits and habitats: Column feeder at mid water. Prefers to feed on plant matters including decaying vegetations. Food of Rohu may contain algae, higher plants, protozoans, insect larvae, crustaceans, mud and sand In culture condition, the species also feeds on supplementary fish food, namely rice bran, wheat bran and oil cake. In the wild, it is a diurnal species, usually solitary, burrows occasionally.

Genus: *Mylopharyngodon* Peters, 1881
70. *Mylopharyngodon piceus* (Richardson, 1846)
English names: Black Carp, Snail Carp
Local name: Carp
Habits and habitats: Larvae and small juveniles feed almost entirely on small invertebrates (such as zooplankton and aquatic insects). Larger juveniles and adults are bottom feeders that predominantly prey on snails and bivalve molluscs, although crayfish and other benthic invertebrates are sometimes consumed.
Genus: *Oreichthys* Smith, 1933
71. *Oreichthys cosuatis* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Cosuatis Barb, Indian High Fin Barb
Local name: Kosuati
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, feeds on epiphyton.
Genus: *Osteobrama* Heckel, 1842
72. *Osteobrama cotio* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Cotio
Local names: Keti, Dhela, Lohasura, Dhipali
Habits and habitats: An omnivore and surface feeder. Food consists of algae, protozoans, crustaceans and aquatic insects. Moves in shoals.
Genus: *Osteochilus* Günther, 1868
73. *Osteochilus hasseltii* (Valenciennes, 1842)
English names: Silver Sharkminnow, Nilem Carp, Hasselt's Bony Lip Barb, Hardlipped Barb
Local name: Thuita Puti
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic; potamodromous. Feeds on the roots of plants (*Hydrilla verticillata*), unicellular algae, some crustaceans, insects and worms. Also feeds on periphyton and phytoplankton.
Genus: *Puntius* Hamilton, 1822
74. *Puntius chola* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Swamp Barb, Chola Barb
Local names: Chalapunti, Punti
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, potamodromous, feeds on worms, crustaceans, insects and plant matter Plant matter includes diatoms and algae.
75. *Puntius conchonius* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Swamp Barb, Chola Barb
Local names: Chalapunti, Punti
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, potamodromous; feeds on worms, crustaceans, insects and plant matter Plant matter includes diatoms and algae. During the rainy season, the species occurs in inundated fields and feeds on diatoms, algae and other weeds. During the breeding period, the species becomes beautifully coloured with red and purple on the sides.
76. *Puntius gelius* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Golden Barb, Golden Dwarf Barb
Local name: Gili Punti
Habits and habitats: A peaceful and shy species, suitable for community tanks. Feeds on benthos, zooplankton, crustaceans, insects, etc. Although it is fairly easy to induce these fishes to spawn, they eat their eggs just as soon as they drop them. Inhabits rivers and standing waters over silt and mud.
77. *Puntius guganio* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Glass-barb
Local name: Mola Punti
Habits and habitats: Found in rivers, beels, ponds, and similar water areas. Feeds on aquatic organisms, plankton, aquatic plants, etc.
78. *Puntius phutunio* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Spotted Barb, Pigmy Barb, Dwarf Barb
Local name: Phutani Punti
Habits and habitats: Occurs in standing waters, over silt and mud
Adults and juveniles feed on debris, zoobenthos, such as benthic crustaceans, insects, worms and plant matters (Mills and Vevers, 1989).
79. *Puntius sarana* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Olive Barb
Local names: Sar Punti, Sarna Puti, Saral Punti, Kurti
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, potamodromous. Both bottom and column feeder, feeds on plants, benthic invertebrates and insects. Browses close to the substrate in shallow waters. Forms schools in groups of four or five to several dozens
80. *Puntius sophore* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Spotfin Swamp Barb, Pool Barb
Local names: Punti, Jat Punti
Habits and habitats: Voracious eaters of floating organisms and aquatic plants. Can breed everywhere in its habitat during the rainy season. They live in and move in groups, and can live both in clear as well as foul waters and can survive even in extreme adverse conditions inside muddy bottom soil covered by aquatic weeds.

81. *Puntius terio* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: One Spot Barb
Local name: Teri Punti
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, feeds mainly on diatoms, algae, crustaceans, insects and mud-sands.
82. *Puntius ticto* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Ticto Barb, Firefin Barb, Two-spot Barb
Local names: Tit Punti, Tita Punti
Habits and habitats: Still, shallow, marginal waters of tanks and rivers, mostly with muddy bottoms. Feeds on plants, benthic invertebrates and insects. Browses close to the substrate in shallow waters.
Genus: *Raiamas* Jordan, 1918
83. *Raiamas bola* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Indian Trout
Local names: Bhol, Bol
Habits and habitats: Its wide mouth and streamlined body is well-suited for its predaceous life.
Because of its predaceous nature it is a cause of threat to other aquatic organisms. Inhabits rivers and streams.
Genus: *Rasbora* Bleeker, 1860
84. *Rasbora daniconius* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Common Rasbora, Slender Rasbora
Local name: Darkina
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, potamodromous. Sometimes forms large schools. This species is a surface feeder, mainly on aquatic insects and detritus. Occurs in a variety of habitats: ditches, ponds, canals, haors, streams and rivers. Inhabits mainly sandy streams and rivers.
85. *Rasbora rasbora* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Gangetic Scissortail Rasbora
Local names: Darkina, Leuzza Darkina
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, potamodromous. Sometimes forms large schools. Surface feeder, mainly feeds on aquatic insects and detritus. Occurs in a variety of habitats: ditches, ponds, canals, haors, streams and rivers. Inhabits mainly sandy streams and rivers.
Genus: *Salmostoma* Swainson, 1839
86. *Salmostoma argentea* (Day, 1864)
English name: Silver Razorbelly Minnow
Local name: Chela
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, potamodromous, widely distributed in the lower reaches of rivers, ponds, beels, ditches and canals throughout Bangladesh. Surface feeder and feeds mainly on aquatic insects and detritus.
87. *Salmostoma bacaila* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Large Razorbelly Minnow
Local names: Katari, Narkalichela
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, potamodromous, widely distributed in the lower reaches of rivers, ponds, beels, ditches and canals throughout Bangladesh. Surface feeder and feeds mainly on aquatic insects and detritus. It has the habit of jumping above the water surface. Moves in schools of 15-30 individuals.
88. *Salmostoma phulo* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Finescale Razorbelly Minnow
Local name: Fulchela
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, widely distributed in the lower reaches of rivers, ponds, beels, ditches and canals throughout Bangladesh. This species is a surface-feeder and feeds mainly on aquatic insects and detritus.
Genus: *Securicula* Günther, 1868
89. *Securicula gora* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Gora-chela
Local name: Ghora Chela
Habits and habitats: Surface feeder, predatory in nature and feeds regularly on insects, insect larvae, crustaceans, etc.
Genus: *Tor* Gray, 1834
90. *Tor putitora* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Putitor Mahseer
Local names: Mohashol, Putitor Mahseer
Habits and habitats: Omnivorous, feeding on fish, phytoplankton, zooplankton, insects, molluscs, dipteran larvae and plant matter. Juveniles subsist on plankton while fingerlings feed mainly on algae. Benthopelagic at depth 15 m, inhabits streams, riverine pools and lakes.
91. *Tor tor* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Tor Mahseer, Mahseer
Local names: Mohashol, Mohal
Habits and habitats: Omnivorous, feeds on filamentous algae, submerged plants, chironomid larvae, water beetles and crustaceans
T. tor travels towards the headwaters at the beginning of the rains and downstream when the

rain ceases. The size of the species depends largely upon the size of the river in which it lives.
Family: Psilorhynchidae
Genus: *Psilorhynchus* McClelland, 1839
92. *Psilorhynchus balitora* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Balitora Minnow
Local name: Balitora
Habits and habitats: This species is found in fast streams and shallow rivers
Feeds mainly on protozoans, cyclops, daphnia, phytoplankton, etc.
93. *Psilorhynchus gracilis* Rainboth, 1983
English name: Rainboth Minnow
Local name: Balitora
Habits and habitats: Demersal, found over small pebbles in sandy bottom; bottom feeder. Generally free-swimming. Mostly found in rapidly flowing streams below the foothills.
94. *Psilorhynchus sucatio* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: River Stone Carp, Sucatio Minnow
Local name: Titari
Habits and habitats: Demersal, freshwater, inhabits primarily the edges of clear sandy streams
Family: Balitoridae
Genus: *Acanthocobitis* Peters, 1861
95. *Acanthocobitis botia* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Mottled Loach, Zipper Loach, Sand Loach
Local names: Bilturi, Natwa, Balichata
Habits and habitats: Benthic, lives in stream bottom, nocturnal in habit. They protect themselves by burying their body in the sand and gravel with great rapidity. Feeds on zoobenthos and insect larvae. The loaches as a group living in an environment with full stress, have to adjust themselves constantly to any fluctuation in the ecological niche.
96. *Acanthocobitis zonalternans* (Blyth, 1860)
English name: River Loach
Local name: Balichata
Habits and habitats: Demersal, occurs in shallow and clearwater streams with a pebbly bottom. The marmorated colour pattern of the species makes it inconspicuous from the surface. The Feeds on zoobenthos and insect larvae.
Genus: *Nemacheilus* Bleeker, 1863
97. *Nemacheilus sikmaiensis* Hora, 1921
English name: River Loach
Local name: Gang Gutum
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic; potamodromous
Hides underneath rocks and boulders in swift flowing streams.
Genus: *Schistura* McClelland, 1839
98. *Schistura beavani* (Günther, 1868)
English name: Creek Loach
Local name: Beavani Balichata
Habits and habitats: Hides underneath rocks and stones in shallow and swift clear streams with pebbly bottoms. Feeds on algae, detritus and other benthic organisms.
99. *Schistura corica* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Corica Loach
Local names: Koirka, Korica, Khorica
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, potamodromous. Feeds on insect larvae, shrimps, aquatic vegetation, etc. They protect themselves from danger by burying their bodies with great rapidity in the sand, gravel or underneath rocks and boulders in swift, clean, cold streams where they abound.
100. *Schistura savona* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Savona Loach, Half Banded Loach, Bicolor Loach
Local name: Savon Khorka
Habits and habitats: Bottom dwellers, mainly omnivorous, generally feeds on mosquito larvae, shrimps, tubifex, daphnia and some algae.
They hide underneath the rocks for their protection.
101. *Schistura scaturigina* McClelland, 1839
English names: Scaturigina Loach, Victory Loach
Local name: Dari
Habits and habitats: Occurs in rivers and streams with gravelly beds. Feeds on worms, insect larvae, aquatic vegetation, etc.
Family: Cobitidae
Genus: *Botia* Gray, 1831
102. *Botia dario* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Necktie Loach, Queen Loach, Bengal Loach
Local name: Rani
Habits and habitats: In aquariums, they prefer foods such as worms, small shrimps, snails, etc. but will accept flaked and sinking foods as well. They are not usually nocturnal but prefer rocks or plants to rest their eyes.

103. *Botia dayi* Hora, 1932
English names: Hora Loach, Botya Loach
Local names: Rani, Betangi
Habits and habitats: Bottom-feeder. Feeds on detritus and insect larvae. Found to inhabit the muddy bottoms of ditches, beels, canals, inundated fields and rivers.
104. *Botia lohachata* Chaudhuri, 1912
English name: Y-loach
Local names: Rani, Putul, Beti
Habits and habitats: Demersal. It is sociable as well as less shy and pugnacious than other *Botia* spp. It can burrow under the gravel and likes to hide. Feeds on worms, snails, small fish, etc. Inhabits creeks with rocky and sandy bottoms.
Genus: *Lepidocephalus* Bleeker, 1858
105. *Lepidocephalus berdmorei* (Blyth, 1861)
English name: Burmese Loach
Local name: Puiya
Habits and habitats: Inhabits hill streams with moderate currents and pebble to stone bottom. Burrows quickly in the sand and gravels when frightened. Eats benthic organisms.
Genus: *Lepidocephalichthys* Bleeker, 1863
106. *Lepidocephalichthys annandalei* Chaudhuri, 1912
English name: Annandale Loach
Local names: Gutum, Puiya
Habits and habitats: Feeds mainly on mud and organisms of the benthic region.
Demersal. Inhabits clear, swift streams with sandy bottom
107. *Lepidocephalichthys guntea* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Peppered Loach, Guntea Loach
Local names: Gutum, Puiya
Habits and habitats: Demersal; potamodromous Feeds on insect larvae and bottom detritus.
108. *Lepidocephalichthys irrorata* Hora, 1921
English name: Loktak Loach
Local name: Puiya
Habits and habitats: Demersal. Occurs in clear streams with sand and gravel at the bottom
Feeds on bottom organisms and detritus.
Genus: *Neoeucirrhichthys* Banarescu and Nalbant, 1968
109. *Neoeucirrhichthys maydelli* Banarescu and Nalbant, 1968
English name: Goalpara Loach
Local names: Puiya, Gutum
Habits and habitats: Demersal.
Occurs in clear-flowing water streams with sandy to rocky bottom. Feeds on benthos and debris
Genus: *Pangio* Blyth, 1860
110. *Pangio pangia* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Pangia Coolie-loach, Cinnamon Loach
Local names: Pangya, Panga
Habits and habitats: Demersal, inhabits shallow, slow-moving rivers with sandy bottoms. The species loves to dig and hide in the bottom.
Genus: *Somileptes* Swanson, 1839
111. *Somileptes gongota* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Gongota Loach, Mooseface Loach
Local names: Poia, Ghar Poia, Pahari Gutum, Puiya
Habits and habitats: Demersal. Feeds on worms, crustaceans, insects, etc. Occurs in shallow, slow-moving streams and rivers with sandy, muddy or gravelly bottoms. The species has the habit of burying in the sand quickly when frightened.
Order: Characiformes
Family: Characidae
Genus: *Pygocentrus* Müller and Troschel, 1844
112. *Pygocentrus nattereri* Kner, 1858
English names: Red Piranha, Red-bellied Piranha
Local name: Manushkheko Piranha
Habits and habitats: This species inhabits all types of waters from quiet and weedy to clear, rushing streams. Most live in schools,
They are pelagic, voracious
predators, dangerous even to human beings; they will bite anything that moves.
Adults feed mainly at dusk and dawn; feeds on insects, worms and fish. In captivity, it can be taught to eat almost everything meaty.
Genus: *Piaractus* Eigenmann, 1903
113. *Piaractus brachypomus* (Cuvier, 1818)
English names: Pirapitinga, Red-bellied Pacu
Local names: Piranha, Rupchanda, Thai Rupchanda
Habits and habitats: Pelagic, omnivorous, usually feeds on insects and decaying plants. This fish can be kept as vegetarians in aquaria.
Order: Siluriformes
Family: Bagridae
Genus: *Batasio* Blyth, 1860
114. *Batasio batasio* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Tista Batasio

Local names: Tengra, Batasi

Habits and habitats: Carnivorous. Inhabits rivers and canals.

115. *Batasio tengana* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Dwarf Catfish

Local name: Tengra

Habits and habitats: Generally inhabits torrential streams. Bottom dwelling, detritus feeder in the upper reaches of riverine habitats. Several specimens were collected from the old Brahmaputra River in Mymensingh district.

Genus: *Hemibagrus* Bleeker, 1862

116. *Hemibagrus menoda* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Menoda Catfish

Local names: Ghagla, Gang Tengra, Arwari, Kawni

Habits and habitats: *H. menoda* lives on bottom organisms. Inhabits rivers and their tributaries. It buries in soft, wet clay in bottoms of rivers, tributaries and ponds.

Genus: *Mystus* Scopoli, 1777

117. *Mystus armatus* (Day, 1865)

English name: Kerala Mystus

Local name: Tengra

Habits and habitats: Lives in clear water in swift-flowing hill streams with beds of rocks and boulders. Consumes benthos and aquatic insects. Hides below rocks and boulders.

118. *Mystus bleekeri* (Day, 1877)

English name: Day's Mystus

Local names: Tengra, Gulsha Tengra

Habits and habitats: Demersal, potamodromous; found in rivers, canals, khals, beels and similar water bodies in Bangladesh. Feeds on insect larvae, zooplankton and small fishes.

119. *Mystus cavasius* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Gangetic Mystus

Local names: Kabashi Tengra, Gulsha, Gulsha Tengra

Habits and habitats: Feeds on insect larvae, zooplankton and small fish.

Moves into the flooded lands during periods of high water and returns to the river when floodwater recedes.

120. *Mystus gulio* (Hamilton, 1822)

English names: Long-whiskered Catfish, Gulio Catfish

Local names: Nuna-tengra, Guillya

Habits and habitats: Primarily a brackish water fish that enters and lives in fresh water.

Juveniles and adults feed on debris, zooplanktons, zoobenthos, other benthic invertebrates, fish eggs and larvae

121. *Mystus tengara* (Hamilton, 1822)

English names: Stripped Dwarf Catfish, Tengara Mystus, Pearl Catfish

Local names: Bajari Tengra, Ghuitta Tengra, Bajuri, Bujri, Bojja

Habits and habitats: Inhabits weedy, sandy and muddy parts of the pools, streams, rivers and canals in the rainy season. The fish is a bottom-dweller, feeds on insect larvae, earthworms, molluscs, crustaceans, algae, a little sand and mud.

122. *Mystus vittatus* (Bloch, 1797)

English names: Striped Dwarf Catfish, Asian Striped Catfish, Striped River Catfish

Local name: Tengra

Habits and habitats: Demersal, feeds on plants, shrimps, insects, molluscs and fishes.

Also inhabits the marginal waters of lakes and swamps with a mud substrate. Mainly seen in the flooded ponds, lakes, canals, beels, paddy and jute fields, streams and rivers

Genus: *Rama* Bleeker, 1855

123. *Rama chandramara* (Hamilton, 1822)

English names: Asian Cory, Gold Shadow Catfish, Hovering Catfish, Humming Bird Catfish

Local names: Gura Tengra, Futki Bujurii, Bajaria Tengra

Habits and habitats: Bottom-dweller. Ominvorous, mainly animal feeder.

Genus: *Rita* Bleeker, 1858

124. *Rita rita* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Rita

Local name: Rita

Habits and habitats: Potamodromous, bottom-dweller and carnivore. Feeds on insects, molluscs, shrimps, fishes and roots of aquatic plants, also putrid carcass or flesh of animals.

Genus: *Sperata* Holly, 1939

125. *Sperata aor* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Long-whiskered Catfish

Local names: Ayre, Bhangat, Talla Ayre

Habits and habitats: Predatory, preys on smaller fishes, large insects and worms.

126. *Sperata seenghala* (Sykes, 1839)

English name: Giant River-catfish

Local names: Guijja, Guijja Ayre, Bhangat, Talla Ayre

Habits and habitats: Mainly bottom-feeders and predatory in nature, feeds on benthos, larvae of fish and algae, destructive to tender carp fry.

Family: Siluridae

Genus: *Ompok* Lacepede, 1803

127. *Ompok bimaculatus* (Bloch, 1797)

English names: Butter Catfish, Two Spot Glass Catfish

Local names: Kani Pabda, Boali Pabda, Pupta, Pafta

Habits and habitats: Omnivorous. Feeds on crustacean larvae, fish fries, zooplankton, algae and small portions of sand and mud. Predatory in nature. Hunts macro-fauna including fish fry. Swims around in shallow and often muddy waters.

128. *Ompok pabda* (Hamilton, 1822)

English names: Pabdah Catfish, Two Stripe Gulper Catfish

Local name: Madhu Pabda

Habits and habitats: Omnivorous; feeds on crustacean larvae, fish fry, zooplankton, algae and small portion of sand and mud. Predatory in nature. Hunts macro-fauna including fish fry. Swims around in shallow and often muddy waters.

129. *Ompok pabo* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Pabo Catfish

Local names: Pabda, Kala Pabda

Habits and habitats: Omnivorus; feeds on crustacean larvae, fish fry, zooplankton, algae and small portion of sand and mud. Predatory in nature. Hunts macro-fauna including fish fry. Swims around in shallow and often muddy waters.

Genus: *Wallago* Bleeker, 1851

130. *Wallago attu* (Schneider, 1801)

English names: Boal, Wallago, Freshwater Shark, Helicopter Catfish

Local names: Boal, Boali, Boyari, Keyali, Boil

Habits and habitats: *W. attu* is a voracious, carnivorous and predatory fish. Juveniles feed mainly on insects, crustaceans, molluscs and small fishes, adults feed predominantly on cyprinid fishes.

Family: Schilbeidae

Genus: *Ailia* Gray, 1831

131. *Ailia coila* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Gangetic Ailia

Local names: Kajuli, Bashpata

Habits and habitats: *A. coila* is a freshwater pelagic fish. It is a carnivore but occasionally feeds on algae, plant materials and debris. Lives in shoals in major freshwater rivers an connected waters.

132. *Ailia punctata* (Day, 1871)

English name: Jamuna Ailia

Local names: Kajuli, Bashpata

Habits and habitats: Demersal, freshwater species. Feeds on algae, plant materials and debris. Lives in shoals in major rivers.

Genus: *Clupisoma* Swainson, 1839

133. *Clupisoma garua* (Hamilton, 1822)

English names: Garua Bacha, Gagra

Local names: Ghaura, Gharua, Gagra, Garua Bacha

Habits and habitats: Inhabits large fresh water bodies and tidal rivers. Bottom-feeder; feeds on insects, shrimps, other crustaceans and small fishes. It is a foul feeder. Known to take human faeces as food.

Genus: *Eutropiichthys* Bleeker, 1862

134. *Eutropiichthys murius* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Murius Vacha

Local names: Muri Bacha, Motus

Habits and habitats: Demersal. A voracious feeder, feeding on small fishes, aquatic weeds and insects.

135. *Eutropiichthys vacha* (Hamilton, 1822)

English names: Batchwa Vacha, Bacha

Local names: Bacha, Garua Bacha

Habits and habitats: Pelagic; potamodromous. A voracious feeder, feeding on small fishes, aquatic weeds and insects.

Genus: *Pseudeutropius* Bleeker, 1862

136. *Pseudeutropius atherinoides* (Bloch, 1794)

English name: Indian Potasi

Local names: Batasi, Bataiya, Batais

Habits and habitats: Demersal; amphidromous Feeds on algae, plant materials and debris. The species is a fast swimmer.

Genus: *Silonia* Swainson, 1839

137. *Silonia silondia* (Hamilton, 1822)

English names: Silond Catfish, Silondia Vacha

Local names: Shilong, Silond, Dhain, Siloin, Jilang

Habits and habitats: Prefers strong, well-oxygenated streams and clear waters.

It is carnivorous and voracious. This gregarious catfish moves in shoals.
Family: Pangasiidae
Genus: *Pangasius* Valenciennes, 1849
138. *Pangasius hypophthalmus* (Sauvage, 1878)
English names: Pungas, Sutchi Catfish, Iridescent Shark Catfish, Yellowtail Catfish, Pungas Catfish
Local names: Thai Pangas, Pangwash
Habits and habitats: Omnivorous. Feeds on crustaceans, fishes and vegetable debris.
139. *Pangasius pangasius* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Pungas, Yellowtail Catfish, Pungas Catfish
Local names: Pangas, Pangwash
Habits and habitats: Potamodromous and voracious.
Feeds on foul and decaying animals and vegetable matters, including amphipods, isopods and benthic crustaceans, insects and also small fishes.
Family: Amblycipitidae
Genus: *Amblyceps* Blyth, 1858
140. *Amblyceps mangois* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Indian Torrent Catfish
Local name: Chotta Shinghi
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic. Diet consists of aquatic insects.
Family: Sisoridae
Genus: *Bagarius* Bleeker, 1853
141. *Bagarius bagarius* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Gangetic Goonch, Devil Catfish, Sand Shark
Local names: Baghair, Baghari, Bagh Machh
Habits and habitants: A predator, feeds mainly on small fishes, frogs and shrimps.
Lives under bogwood or logs in fast-flowing rivers and eats anything small enough to fit inside the enormous mouth that it possesses.
Genus: *Gagata* Bleeker, 1858
142. *Gagata cenia* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Indian Gagata, Clown Catfish
Local names: Cenia, Jungla, Couwa
Habits and habitats: Demersal, feeds on bottom organisms.
143. *Gagata gagata* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Gangetic Gagata
Local names: Gang Tengra, Jungla, Ghorakata, Hudda
Habits and habitats: Bottom feeder. Mainly feeds on benthos and ooze.
144. *Gagata youssoufi* Rahman, 1976
English name: Gangetic Gagata
Local name: Gang Tengra
Habits and habitats: Bottom feeder. Mainly feeds on benthos and ooze.
Genus: *Glyptothorax* Blyth, 1860
145. *Glyptothorax indicus* Talwar, 1991
English name: Sylhet Hara
Local names: Teli, Telchitta
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, feeds mainly on bottom organisms. Clings to the stones at the bottom by means of the adhesive thoracic apparatus.
146. *Glyptothorax telchitta* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Sylhet Hara
Local names: Teli, Telchitta
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, lives mainly on bottom organisms.
Genus: *Gogangra* Roberts, 2001
147. *Gogangra viridescens* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Huddah Nangra
Local name: Gang Tengra
Habits and habitats: Demersal and potamodromous. Feeds on benthic organisms.
Genus: *Hara* Blyth, 1861
148. *Hara hara* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Kosi Hara
Local name: Kutakanti
Habits and habitats: Detritus feeder. Inhabits slow-moving freshwater rivers and streams.
149. *Hara jerdoni* Day, 1870
English name: Sylhet Hara
Local name: Kutakanti
Habits and habitats: A very sluggish fish. Feeds on insect larvae, benthic detritus, etc.
Genus: *Nangra* Day, 1877
150. *Nangra nangra* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Kosi Nangra, Meghna Nangra
Local name: Gang Tengra
Habits and habitats: Demersal. Feeds on bottom-dwelling organisms.
Genus: *Sisor* Hamilton, 1822
151. *Sisor rhabdophorus* Hamilton, 1822
English names: Sisor Catfish, Whiptail Catfish
Local name: Sai Sore
Habits and habitats: Demersal and potamodromous. Feeds on bottom organisms.
Family: Erethistidae
Genus: *Conta* Hora, 1950

152. *Conta conta* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Conta Catfish
Local name: Hara Machh
Habits and habitats: Demersal, typically adapted to the torrential habitat. Feeds on mud and benthic organisms.
Genus: *Erethistes* Müller and Troschel, 1845
153. *Erethistes pussilus* Müller and Troschel, 1845
English names: Gangetic Erethistes, Giant Moth Catfish
Local names: Kutakanti, Kurkati
Habits and habitats: Demersal. Bottom feeder, mainly feeds on insect larvae and other benthic organisms. Inhabits sluggish deep waters overgrown with vegetation. Often washed to the plains during the floods.
Genus: *Pseudolaguvia* Misra, 1976
154. *Pseudolaguvia inornata* Ng, 2005
English name: Painted Catfish
Local name: Kani Tengra
Habits and habitats: Benthic fish maintaining themselves attached to the bottom of rivers by means of their thoracic adhesive pad. Plays the role of a minor predator of the benthic population of the aquatic environment.
155. *Pseudolaguvia muricata* Ng, 2005
English name: Painted Catfish
Local name: Kani Tengra
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic. Occurs in clear, shallow, slow-flowing streams with a mixed substrate of sand and detritus. Plays the role of a minor predator among the benthic population of the aquatic environment.
156. *Pseudolaguvia ribeiroi* (Hora, 1921)
English name: Painted Catfish
Local name: Kani Tengra
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic. Feeds on worms and insects. Plays the role of a minor predator of the benthic population of aquatic environments.
157. *Pseudolaguvia shawi* (Hora, 1921)
English name: Shaws Catfish
Local name: Kani Tengra
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic. Inhabits rapid running waters at the base of hills. Feeds on small invertebrates.
Family: Clariidae
Genus: *Clarias* Scopoli, 1777
158. *Clarias batrachus* (Linnaeus, 1758)
English names: Walking Catfish, Clarias Catfish, Freshwater Catfish
Local names: Magur, Mosqur, Mojgor
Habits and habitats: Walking Catfish are benthic, omnivorous, industrious in their search for food; nocturnal species search the bottom with their barbels in bottom detritus. Consume a wide variety of prey, including eggs or larvae of other fishes, small fishes, and a number of invertebrates, such as annelids, crustaceans and insects. Due to its scavenging behaviour the fish reduces some water pollutants from the bottom of the water body and plays a vital role in reducing pollution.
159. *Clarias gariepinus* (Burchell, 1822)
English name: North African Catfish
Local name: African Magur
Habits and habitats: Omnivorous, potamodromous, bottom dweller and does most of its feeding there. Occasionally feeds at the surface. Forages at night on a wide variety of prey. Widely tolerant of extreme environmental conditions. The presence of an accessory breathing organ enables this species to breathe air when very active or under very dry conditions. Also able to secrete mucus to prevent drying and are able to burrow in the muddy substrate of a drying body of water. A predatory fish, it consumes small fishes, frogs, snakes or whatever is available.
Family: Heteropneustidae
Genus: *Heteropneustes* Müller, 1840
160. *Heteropneustes fossilis* (Bloch, 1794)
English names: Stinging Catfish, Fossil Catfish, Liver Catfish
Local names: Shing, Jiol, Shinghi, Jill Shinghi
Habits and habitats: Demersal, omnivorous and a predator. Lives in large shoals near the bottom. Generally, during the dry season, Singhi lives in semiliquid and semi-dry mud, and even when the mud dries up, it takes its body above to the bottom of fissures and crevices formed by the cracking mud. Controls water pollution to some extent by consuming aquatic plants and detritus.
Family: Chacidae
Genus: *Chaca* Gray, 1831
161. *Chaca chaca* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Squarehead Catfish
Local names: Chaka, Gangainna, Chaka Veka
Habits and habitats: Potamodromous,

Lies quietly on the bottom until some prey comes along. In the aquarium, this species feeds also on live food, such as other smaller fishes and fries, large earthworms, chopped beaf heart and shrimp. Apparently a worm-like appendix at the fringe of the mouth is used to attract prey. Demersal, plays the role of a carnivore in the coastal ecosystem.

Family: Olyridae

Genus: *Olyra* McClelland, 1842

162. *Olyra longicaudata* McClelland, 1842

English names: Bannertail Catfish, Longtail Catfish

Local name: Bot Shinghi

Habits and habitats: Demersal. Usually found in small clean water, rocky streams at the base of hills. Feeds on benthic organisms from the bottom of the rocky streams.

Bottom-dwelling detritus feeder, does not compete with other column and surface feeders in the aquatic ecosystem.

Family: Ariidae

Genus: *Arius* Valenciennes, 1840

163. *Arius gagora* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Gagora Catfish

Local names: Gagla, Ghunga, Ghagra

Habits and habitats: Ascends tidal rivers. Demersal and amphidromous fish. Feeds mainly on invertebrates and small fishes. Consumes invertebrate animals and small fishes and thus controls the growth of different organisms in the estuarine ecosystem.

Genus: *Batrachocephalus* Bleeker, 1846

164. *Batrachocephalus mino* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Beardless Sea Catfish

Local name: Katabukha

Habits and habitats: Found in the coastal waters, as well as in estuaries and tidal rivers.

Predaceous, carnivorous, feeds mainly on invertebrates and small fishes. Plays the role of a carnivore in the coastal ecosystem.

Genus: *Osteogeneiosus* Bleeker, 1846

165. *Osteogeneiosus militaris* (Linnaeus, 1758)

English name: Soldier Catfish

Local name: Apuia

Habits and habitats: Predaceous, carnivorous, feeds mainly on invertebrates and small fish. Usually inhabits seas, estuaries and tidal rivers. Plays an important role in controlling the population of benthic organisms in the aquatic ecosystem. Tanoidacea, Amphipoda, Bivalvia, Polychaeta and Isopoda are the major groups consumed by this species.

Family: Plotosidae

Genus: *Plotosus* Lacepede, 1803

166. *Plotosus canius* Hamilton, 1822

English names: Canine Catfish Eel, Gray Eel Catfish, Eel-tail Catfish

Local names: Gang Magur, Kain Magur

Habits and habitats: Feeds on crustaceans, molluscs and fishes. Demersal, amphidromous in fresh, brackish and marine habitats. Controls water pollution by consuming aquatic detritus.

Family: Loricariidae

Genus: *Hypostomus* Lacepede, 1803

167. *Hypostomus plecostomus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

English names: Plecostomus, Suckermouth Catfish, Common Pleco, Plecostomus Catfish

Local name: Choshok Machh

Habits and habitats: Omnivorous; mostly eats algae, but sometimes vegetables, live worms, crustaceans and insect larvae. May graze plants if not fed sufficient amounts. Nocturnal; A voracious algae eater, it can be used to control unwanted algal growth in the aquatic ecosystem or in aquariums. It is a robust fish able to adapt to most conditions. It is able to eat any fish that can fit into the mouth.

Order: Cyprinodontiformes

Family: Aplocheilidae

Genus: *Aplocheilus* McClelland, 1839

168. *Aplocheilus panchax* (Hamilton, 1822)

English names: Panchax Minnow, Blue Panchax, Tin Head (Singapore)

Local names: Techoukka, Kanpona, Choukkani, Bechi

Habits and habitats: Surface-dwelling in small groups, larvivorous. Prefers clear water in areas with dense growth of rooted or floating macrophytes.

Seen at the surface in schools in marginal water. Sometimes occurring in hypersaline waters. The species renders a distinct service to mankind by its destruction of mosquito larvae, which is its chief and favourite food.

Family: Cyprinodontidae

Genus: *Oryzias* Jordan and Snyder, 1906

169. *Oryzias melastigma* (McClelland, 1839)

English name: Estuarine Ricefish

Local names: Bechi, Kanpona
Habits and habitats: Feeds on larvae of aquatic insects and mosquitoes.
Always found in shoals. Carnivorous, this species can control the insect population of the aquatic environment. By eating aquatic detritus they keep the water clean.
Order: Syngnathiformes
Family: Syngnathidae
Genus: *Ichthyocampus* Kaup, 1853
170. *Ichthyocampus carce* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Freshwater Pipefish
Local names: Kumirer Khil, Kara Kumirer Khil
Habits and habitats: Demersal, amphidromous, ovoviviparous. Feeds on worms, crustaceans and small zooplankton. Inhabits estuaries and rivers.
Genus: *Microphis* Kaup, 1853
171. *Microphis chokderi* (Rahman, 1976)
English name: Crocodile Tooth Pipefish
Local name: Kumirer Khil
Habits and habitats: Demersal, potamodromous; it uses its tail to attach itself to weeds and algae. The fish live among aquatic plants, swim in a vertical position by the undulatory movements of the dorsal fin. Omnivorous, food items include small crustaceans, mostly copepods and mysids.
172. *Microphis cuncalus* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Crocodile Tooth Pipefish
Local names: Kumirer Khil, Kumirer Kona
Habits and habitats: Demersal, omnivorous, feeds on minute invertebrates sucked into a tubular snout. They live among aquatic plants and swim in a vertical position by the rapid, rippling movement of the dorsal, pelvic and pectoral fins
173. *Microphis deocata* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Deocata Pipefish
Local name: Kumirer Khil
Habits and habitats: Ovoviviparous; feeds on plankton, worms, crustaceans, etc. Demersal; amphidromous. Lives among aquatic plants, swims in a vertical position by the undulating movement of the dorsal.
Order: Synbranchiformes
Family: Synbranchidae
Genus: *Monopterus* Lecepede, 1800
174. *Monopterus cuchia* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Cuchia, Gangetic Mud Eel, Freshwater Mud Eel
Local names: Kuchia, Kunche, Kuicha
Habits and habitats: Benthic or demersal. Swims in a serpentine fashion. Due to the presence of accessory respiratory organs they can survive for a few days in the holes but sometimes they come out of the holes to take oxygen. Nocturnal, often spends the day hiding under crevices, water hyacinth, stones and mud. Known to hibernate in the mud during the cold season. Feeds mainly on small fishes, tadpoles and small insects. Most of the time adult fishes stay in the hole keeping the mouth outside the hole to respire but hide suddenly in the presence of an enemy. A quiet and innocent species restricted to the bottom of its mud habitat.
Genus: *Ophisternon* McClelland, 1845
175. *Ophisternon bengalense* McClelland, 1845
English names: Bengal Mud Eel, One-gilled Eel, Asian Swamp Eel
Local names: Bamosh, Kunche
Habits and habitats: Carnivorous. Young fishes live within floating plants. Most of the time adult fishes stay in the hole keeping the mouth outside the hole to respire but hide suddenly in the presence of an enemy. A quiet species restricted to the bottom of the mud habitat.
Order: Scorpaeniformes
Family: Platycephalidae
Genus: *Platycephalus* Bloch, 1795
176. *Platycephalus indicus* (Linnaeus, 1758)
English name: Bartail Flathead
Local name: Mur Bailla
Habits and habitats: The species is benthic in habit and prefers to live on sand or mud bottoms. Feeds mainly on crustaceans and fish. It can move long distances and is an active forager and predator, using the ambush (sit and wait) method of attack.
Order: Perciformes
Family: Centropomidae
Genus: *Lates* Cuvier, 1828
177. *Lates calcarifer* (Bloch, 1790)
English names: Barramundi, Sea Bass, Sea Perch, Cock-up
Local names: Bhetki, Koral
Habits and habitats: Diadromous fish, inhabiting rivers before returning to the estuaries to spawn. Carnivorous, highly predaceous and even cannibalistic, feeding on fishes, crustaceans, molluscs and worms. Controls pelagic plankton-feeder small fishes and helps to maintain ecological balance

Family: Ambassidae
Genus: *Chanda* Hamilton, 1822
178. *Chanda nama* Hamilton, 1822
English names: Elongate Glass-perchlet, Asian Glass Fish
Local names: Nama Chanda, Chanda
Habits and habitats: Larvivore; for its larvivorous habit, it reduces the mosquito population in the area it lives in. The species swims through the flooded paddy fields in schools during the rainy season.
Genus: *Pseudambassis* Bleeker, 1874
179. *Pseudambassis baculis* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Himalayan Glassy Perchlet, Indian Glassy Fish
Local names: Kata Chanda, Phopa Chanda
Habits and habitats: Inhabits freshwater ponds, ditches, pools and rivers in Bangladesh. Frequently moves in schools in flooded paddy fields during the rainy season. By consuming insect larvae and worms, the species reduces the insect population in the ecosystem.
180. *Pseudambassis lala* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Highfin Glassy Perchlet
Local names: Lal Chanda, Kat Chanda
Habits and habitats: Demersal; feeds on insect larvae, worms and insects. Controls the insect population in the ecosystem where it occurs.
181. *Pseudambassis ranga* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Indian Glassy Fish
Local names: Chanda, Ranga Chanda, Lal Chanda
Habits and habitats: Primarily feeds on zoobenthos, but also on worms and benthic crustaceans.
It feeds on the scales of carps, especially silver carps. It can compete for food and space with carp species in aquaculture farms.
Family: Sillaginidae
Genus: *Sillaginopsis* Gill, 1861
182. *Sillaginopsis panijus* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Gangetic Sillago, Flathead Sillago
Local names: Tular Dandi, Guj Karma, Tuldandi, Sundra, Hundra (Bangladesh), Tool Machh, Tool Belle (West Bengal)
Habits and habitats: Demersal, adapted to muddy water conditions. Feeds on fish, crustaceans, algae, sand and mud. Migratory in habit and moves to estuaries and rivers.
Family: Leiognathidae
Genus: *Leiognathus* Lacepede, 1803
183. *Leiognathus bindus* (Valenciennes, 1835)
English name: Orangefin Ponyfish
Local names: Tak Chanda, Kamala Chanda
Habits and habitats: Carnivorus, amphidromous. Feeds on small crustaceans, insect larvae, polychaetes and worms on sand or muddy-sand bottoms.
Demersal in nature. The fish plays an important role in the benthic food chain. Controls larval lives on the bottom soil.
184. *Leiognathus equulus* (Forsskål, 1775)
English names: Common Ponyfish, Slipmouths
Local name: Tak Chanda
Habits and habitats: Feeds on zooplankton and benthic invertebrates. Reef-associated amphidromous species with a schooling habit. Performs a major role in maintaining the balance of the food chain as a carnivore.
Genus: *Secutor* Gistel, 1848
185. *Secutor insidiator* (Bloch, 1787)
English names: Pugnose Ponyfish, Silver Belly
Local name: Thutni Chanda
Habits and habitats: This species is demersal and marine in habitat; also seen in brackish water. The species is amphidromous. Schooling species
Feeds on pelagic and benthic organisms like zooplankton, including copepods, mysids, larval fishes and small crustaceans
Small demersal marine and estuarine species with schooling behaviour. It controls benthic fauna by effectively grazing on those.
186. *Secutor ruconius* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Deep Pugnose Ponyfish
Local name: Tak Chanda
Habits and habitats: Occurs in coastal waters, enters estuaries and rivers. Adults feed mainly on zooplanktons, such as crustaceans, eggs and larvae of fish and other planktonic invertebrates
Also feeds on debris, benthic algae, weeds and phytoplanktons.
Family: Lobotidae
Genus: *Lobotes* Cuvier, 1829
187. *Lobotes surinamensis* (Bloch, 1790)
English names: Triple Tail, Rockfish, Buoyfish, Black Perch
Local name: Shamudra Koi
Habits and habitats: Carnivorous. Feeds on the benthic crustaceans (shrimps, crabs, etc.) and small

fish. Plays an important role in the aquatic food chain as a carnivore.
Family: Datnioididae
Genus: *Datnioides* Bleeker, 1853
188. *Datnioides quadrifasciatus* (Sevastianov, 1809)
English name: Four-barred Tigerfish
Local name: Sagar Meni
Habits and habitats: Carnivorous; feeds on fishes, prawns, crabs and some insect larvae. The young camouflage themselves by turning sideways like leaves. Plays the role of a predator in the coastal ecosystem.
Family: Sparidae
Genus: *Acanthopagrus* Peters, 1855
189. *Acanthopagrus berda* (Forsskål, 1775)
English names: Picnic Sea Bream, River Bream, Sea Bream, Pikey Bream
Local name: Shada Datina
Habits and habitats: A bottom-living fish, feeds on a wide variety of invertebrates (worms, molluscs, crustaceans, echinoderms, small fish, etc.). Plays the role of a consumer of bottom-living organisms in the coastal ecosystem.
190. *Acanthopagrus latus* (Houttuyn, 1782)
English name: Yellow Seabream
Local name: Datina
Habits and habitats: Demersal.
A schooling species, it usually feeds above the tidal flats. Feeds mainly on echinoderms, worms, crustaceans and molluscs.
Family: Sciaenidae
Genus: *Johnius* Bloch, 1793
191. *Johnius coitor* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Coitor Croaker
Local names: Koitor, Koitor Poa, Decre Poa
Habits and habitats: Demersal, carnivorous and active predators, feeding generally on the crustaceans, fishes, molluscs and echinoderms.
Genus: *Macrospinosa* Mohan, 1969
192. *Macrospinosa cuja* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Cuja Croaker
Local name: Kuizza Poa
Habits and habitats: *M. cuja* is benthopelagic and anadromous. It feeds on small fishes and crustaceans.
Genus: *Otolithoides* Fowler, 1933
193. *Otolithoides pama* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Pama Croaker, Pama
Local names: Poa, Poma, Koi Bola, Bola
Habits and habitats: *O. pama* usually produces sounds under water during the breeding season. It prefers to live in turbid water. The fish is migratory in habit and moves from the estuary to rivers. Feeds on plankton.
Family: Scatophagidae
Genus: *Scatophagus* Cuvier, 1831
194. *Scatophagus argus* (Linnaeus, 1766)
English names: Spotted Scat, Spotted Butterfish, Spadefish, Argus Fish
Local name: Bishtara
Habits and habitats: Demersal, amphidromous; feeds on small fishes, crustaceans and insects
Family: Nandidae
Genus: *Nandus* Valenciennes, 1831
195. *Nandus nandus* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Mottled Nandus, Mud Perch
Local names: Bheda, Meni, Roina, Nandui
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic; occurs frequently in the ditches, beels and inundated fields.
This carnivorous species prefers to stay at the muddy bottom and takes shelter in the weeds at the bottom in winter. The fish is sluggish and very calm and quiet in nature. Reported to consume clay, insect-larvae, fish eggs and small minnows as food.
Family: Pristolepidae
Genus: *Badis* Bleeker, 1853
196. *Badis badis* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Badis, Dwarf Chameleonfish
Local names: Koi Bandi, Napit
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, In the aquarium, it has the habit of remaining at the bottom and nibbling at vegetable detritus. Feeds on worms, crustaceans and insects. This fish demonstrates immense adaptive powers in the aquatic environment by changing body colour and growing rapidly.
Family: Cichlidae
Genus: *Oreochromis* Günther, 1889
197. *Oreochromis mossambicus* (Peters, 1852)
English names: Tilapia, Mozambique Cichlid, Mozambique Tilapia, Java Tilapia
Local name: Tilapia
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic; amphidromous. Omnivorous, feeds on almost anything from algae to insects. Juveniles are

carnivorous, adults tend to be herbivorous. Fast growing, highly fecund, can tolerate a wide variety of water conditions (including salinity ranging from 34-48 ppt). Once introduced into a habitat, the species generally establish itself very quickly. Mainly diurnal, may form schools. Generally the adult fish performs the role as the first consumer and the juvenile as the higher level of consumers in the aquatic food chain. The fish has proved to be a pest, because of its ability to mature early and to breed more frequently, resulting in its overpopulation in ponds. Several countries report an adverse ecological impact after its introduction. It competes with small indigenous fish and gradually occupies their habitats.

198.*Oreochromis niloticus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

English name: Nile Tilapia

Local names: Tilapia, Nilotica

Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, amphidromous fish. Mainly diurnal, may form schools. Omnivorous, feeds on almost anything from algae to insects. Juveniles are carnivorous, adults tend to be herbivorous. Fast growing, highly fecund, and can tolerate a wide variety of water conditions (even marine conditions). Once introduced into a habitat they generally establish themselves very quickly. Competes with small indigenous fish and gradually occupies their habitats. The fish has proved to be harmful to other fish species, because of its ability to mature early and to breed more frequently resulting in its overpopulation in the ponds.

Family: Mugilidae

Genus: *Liza* Jordan and Swain, 1884

199. *Liza parsia* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Goldspot Mullet

Local names: Parse, Parse Bata, Khalla, Khalla Bata

Habits and habitats: Feeds on small algae, diatoms, and other organic matters. Demersal and catadromous; moves in schools. It feeds on small algae, thus avoiding competition with other fish species.

Genus: *Mugil* Linnaeus, 1758

200. *Mugil cephalus* Linnaeus, 1758

English names: Stripped Mullet, Flat Head Mullet, Black Mullet, Fatback

Local names: Korol, Khorool, Bhangan, Parse

Habits and habitats: *M. cephalus* is a surface-dwelling fish and an omnivore when young, but prefers zooplankton and small fish and crustaceans as it grows. Schooling species. They pick up mud from the bottom and strain plant and animal material from it through their sieve-like gillrakers and pharyngeal teeth. Indigestible materials are spat out.

Genus: *Rhinomugil* Gill, 1863

201. *Rhinomugil corsula* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Corsula Mullet

Local names: Khorsula, Bata, Khalla, Arwari, Halla, Hira, Khor, Pungtara, Urul

Habits and habitats: It is a surface-dwelling fish and an omnivore in its feeding habit while young, but prefers zooplankton and small fish and crustaceans as it grows.

They pick up mud from the bottom and strain plant and animal material from it through their sieve-like gillrakers and pharyngeal teeth. Indigestible materials are spat out.

Swims with their eyes on the water surface.

Family: Polynemidae

Genus: *Polynemus* Linnaeus, 1758

202. *Polynemus paradiseus* Linnaeus, 1758

English name: Paradise Threadfin

Local names: Taposi, Tapsi, Bairagi, Muni, Rishi

Habits and habitats: Predator; hunts macro-fauna. Feeds on benthic organisms, small fin fishes and shrimps.

Family: Gobiidae

Genus: *Acentrogobius* Bleeker, 1874

203. *Acentrogobius caninus* (Valenciennes, 1837)

English name: Tropical Sand Goby

Local name: Baillah

Habits and habitats: Demersal; oceanodromous. Occurs along the coastlines and in estuaries and harbours. Usually found in brackish tidal waters with sandy mud bottom.

Feeds on invertebrates.

204. *Acentrogobius cyanomos* (Bleeker, 1849)

English name: Nuna Baila (Bangladesh)

Local name: Nuna Baila

Habits and habitats: Demersal; amphidromous. Carnivorous, often sluggish.

205. *Acentrogobius viridipunctatus* (Valenciennes, 1837)

English name: Spotted Green Goby

Local name: Bailla

Habits and habitats: Carnivorous and sluggish fishes of shallow waters. The fish controls the benthic population in aquatic ecosystem.

Genus: *Apocryptes* Valenciennes, 1837

206. *Apocryptes bato* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Goby

Local names: Chiring, Rutta, Chewa Bele

Habits and habitats: Demersal; amphidromous. Feeds on small invertebrates, especially small crustaceans.

Plays an important role in controlling the invertebrate population in the ecosystem where it lives.

Genus: *Awaous* Valenciennes, 1837

207. *Awaous grammepomus* (Bleeker, 1849)

English names: Streaked River Goby, Scribbled Goby

Local name: Bele

Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, amphidromous. Feeds mainly on filamentous algae and dipteran larvae and also small fishes and crustaceans.

208. *Awaous guamensis* (Valenciennes, 1837)

English name: Scribbled Goby

Local names: Bele, Bailla

Habits and habitats: Demersal; amphidromous. The species often burrows in river beds; omnivorous feeds on algae, worms, crustaceans, various insects and insect larvae, and suspended food particles.

Genus: *Boleophthalmus* Valenciennes, 1837

209. *Boleophthalmus boddarti* (Pallas, 1770)

English names: Boddart's Goggle-eyed Goby, Mudskipper

Local name: Dahuk

Habits and habitats: Inhabits estuaries and tidal rivers. The fish is migratory in habit and migrates for food, shelter and security. At low tide, the fish can be seen walking on mudflats, actively foraging for food. It also feeds on unicellular and multicellular algae and worms. It can walk by using its highly modified pectoral fins much like the legs. It needs to poke its heads above the water surface and gulp air, to retain water in the large gill-chamber that closes tightly when the fish is above the water. It sits on stalks and periscope above the water, while the rest of the body remains safely underwater. By consuming algae and other plant parts, this small fish avoids competition with other fish species. It is effective in controlling the growth of algae.

Genus: *Brachygobius* Bleeker, 1874

210. *Brachygobius nunus* (Hamilton, 1822)

English names: Bumblebee Goby, Golden-banded Goby

Local name: Nuna Baila

Habits and habitats: The species plays an important role in the biological control of insects. Occupies the third trophic level in the food chains both in water and mudflats.

Genus: *Eugnathogobius* Smith, 1931

211. *Eugnathogobius oligactis* (Bleeker, 1875)

English name: Goby

Local name: Bele

Habits and habitats: Feeds on small fishes and invertebrates. With its large mouth and pointed teeth the species acts as a predator of small fishes in the estuaries and tidal water ecosystem.

Genus: *Glossogobius* Gill, 1860

212. *Glossogobius giuris* (Hamilton, 1822)

English names: Tank Goby, Bar-eyed Gobby

Local names: Bele, Bailla

Habits and habitats: The fish is predatory and burrowing in nature and it is reported to live inside soil holes on the bed of water bodies. It preys on small fish fry, insect larvae, fish eggs, etc. Also feeds on sand, clay and other decaying organic matter. The fish also feeds on unicellular and multicellular algae and worms. It is voracious and is found to swallow any kind of food surrounding its habitat. It gets ready to prey on its food by keeping its mouth open. It chases other microfauna. The fish is migratory in habit, the species plays a significant role in keeping the environment clean.

Genus: *Gobiopterus* Bleeker, 1874

213. *Gobiopterus chuno* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Glass Goby

Local name: Chuno Bele

Habits and habitats: Feeds mainly on zooplankton. A benthic spawner in the estuarine ecosystem.

Genus: *Oxyurichthys* Bleeker, 1860

214. *Oxyurichthys microlepis* (Bleeker, 1849)

English names: Fine Scale Arrowfin Goby, Small-scaled Goby

Local name: Nuna Baila

Habits and habitats: Demersal; amphidromous. Feeds on small aquatic organisms.
Undulate median or pectoral fins while swimming. Mode of swimming is diodontiform.
Plays a role in completing the aquatic food chain because of its feeding habit.
Genus: *Parapocryptes* Bleeker, 1874
215. *Parapocryptes batoides* (Day, 1876)
English name: Goby
Local names: Dali Chewa, Chewa Bele, Chiring
Habits and habitats: Feeds on small aquatic organisms. Plays an important role in the aquatic food chain by feeding on small aquatic organisms.
Genus: *Periophthalmodon* Bleeker, 1874
216. *Periophthalmodon schlosseri* (Pallas, 1770)
English name: Mudskipper
Local names: Sada Phota Dahuk, Dahuk
Habits and habitats: Insectivorous, comes ashore onto mudflats for feeding. It finds shelter in holes in the stiff mud. Moves rapidly in the mud by flipping the tail.
It constructs a permanent burrow in which it takes refuge when alarmed.
The species plays an important role in the biological control of insects.
Genus: *Periophthalmus* Bloch and Schneider, 1801
217. *Periophthalmus koelreuteri* (Pallas, 1770)
English name: Mudskipper
Local name: Dahuk
Habits and habitats: Amphibious, air-breather; skips or walks on sand or mud in search of food migratory in habit. At low tide, mudskippers can be seen walking on mudflats, foraging for food. It is a carnivorous opportunistic feeder. Feeds on small prey such as insects, small crabs and other arthropods. Can walk by using the highly modified pectoral (swimming) fins much like legs. By flipping their bodies, they can "skip" across the mud (and water), which is an effective way of avoiding predators.
Genus: *Pseudapocryptes* Bleeker, 1874
218. *Pseudapocryptes elongatus* (Cuvier, 1816)
English name: Pointed-tailed Goby
Local names: Chewa, Chiring
Habits and habitats: Demersal; amphidromous, air-breather. Plays the role of a detritus and insect feeder in the bottom of their habitat.
Genus: *Scartelaos* Swainson, 1839
219. *Scartelaos histophorus* (Valenciennes, 1837)
English name: Walking Goby
Local names: Dahuk, Darak
Habits and habitats: Demersal; amphidromous. Feeds on insects and other small invertebrates. Actively shuttling back and forth between the rock pools and air. Amphibious air-breather
Genus: *Stigmatogobius* Bleeker, 1874
220. *Stigmatogobius sadanundio* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Knight Goby
Local name: Baila
Habits and habitats: Feeds on small fishes and invertebrates, including mosquito larvae, insects, tubifex worms, etc. Bottom-dwelling fish.
Family: Gobioididae
Genus: *Odontamblyopus* Bleeker, 1874
221. *Odontamblyopus rubicundus* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Rubicundus Eelgoby
Local name: Lal Chewa
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic and amphidromous. Feeds on bottom detritus, chironomid larvae and worms. Plays a useful role as a detritus feeder and keeps the benthic habitat clean.
Genus: *Taenioides* Lacepede, 1798
222. *Taenioides buchanani* (Day, 1873)
English name: Burmese Gobyeel
Local name: Raja Chewa
Habits and habitats: Demersal, amphidromous, carnivorous. Feeding upon amphipods, mysid shrimps and small fish.
223. *Taenioides cirratus* (Blyth, 1860)
English name: Bearded Worm Goby
Local name: Chewa
Habits and habitats: The fish can live out of water for a considerable time by taking air into the branchial chambers. Feeds on crustaceans and other invertebrates as well as small fishes.
Family: Eleotridae
Genus: *Butis* Bleeker, 1874
224. *Butis butis* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Duckbill Sleeper
Local name: Baila
Habits and habitats: Usually found in lagoons and estuaries, particularly where there is vegetation. Demersal, amphidromous, occasionally ascends rivers, benthic, solitary, carnivorous, feeds mainly on small fishes, crustaceans and detritus.

225. *Butis melanostigma* (Bleeker, 1849)
English names: Black Spot Sleeper Goby, Black Spotted Gudgeon
Local name: Kalo Baila
Habits and habitats: Benthic, solitary, carnivorous, feeds mainly on small fishes, crustaceans and detritus. Demersal, amphidromous.
Genus: *Eleotris* Bloch and Schneider, 1801
226. *Eleotris fusca* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)
English names: Dusky Sleeper, Brown Gudgeon, Brown Sleeper
Local names: Kuli, Budh Baila, Bhut Bele, Goby
Habits and habitats: Demersal; amphidromous. Feed mainly on zoobenthos, such as benthic crustaceans (crabs, shrimps, prawns, etc.) and insects (midges, mayflies, odonata, trichoptera, etc).
227. *Eleotris lutea* Day, 1876
English name: Lutea Sleeper
Local names: Kuli, Goby
Habits and habitats: Sleepers occur in fresh or brackish waters, although some species are truly marine. These are bottom-dwelling fishes and are carnivorous. Juveniles and adults feed mainly on zoobenthos, such as benthic crustacea and insects. Sometimes they feed on small bony fishes.
Family: Anabantidae
Genus: *Anabas* Cuvier and Cloquet, 1816
228. *Anabas testudineus* (Bloch, 1795)
English names: The Climbing Perch, Climbing Bass, Walking Fish
Local names: Koi, Corvu, Kai
Habits and habitats: Climbing perches are omnivorous, feeding on invertebrates, fish and plants. Visual feeder, feeding primarily during the day. Can survive for some hours out of water with the help of an accessory respiratory organ. In the dry season, the species remains buried under the mud. During the heavy rain, the fish is found to wander long distances on land. Migration is most common at night and after rainstorms. They use mainly their tail and spiny opercle for this purpose. Controls water pollution by consuming aquatic plants and detritus. On an average a fish feeds on around 150 larvae and pupae of mosquito a day
Family: Osphronemidae
Genus: *Pseudosphromenus* Bleeker, 1879
229. *Pseudosphromenus cupanus* (Cuvier, 1831)
English names: Spiketailed Paradise Fish, Red Eyed Spiketailed Paradise Fish
Local name: Koi Bandi
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic. Feeds on insects and zooplankton. Prefers stagnant or slow-flowing water with thick vegetation, such as grasses, roots and floating plants. A bubble nest builder. It is a fairly good larvivorous fish and helps to control the insects and zooplankton population in the aquatic ecosystem.
Genus: *Colisa* Cuvier, 1831
230. *Colisa fasciata* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)
English names: Stripled Gourami, Giant Gourami.
Local names: Khailsha, Khoila, Cheli, Khoira
Habits and habitats: An omnivore, prefers to feed on insect larvae living among dense aquatic vegetation of shallow waters.
Aerial respiration is performed with a pair of suprabranchial chambers, each containing a complicated labyrinthine organ. This fish is hardy, peaceful and easy to feed in the aquarium
231. *Colisa lalia* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Dwarf Gourami, Red Gourami
Local names: Lal Khailsha, Baicha, Ranga Khailsha
Habits and habitats: Dwarf Gouramie can breathe air directly and frequents the surface of the habitat. In nature the species eats small insects and larvae from the surface of water, and grazes algal growth on plants. Dwarf gourami is found in thickly vegetated water in beels, haors and ponds. It is effective in controlling algal growth on plants.
Genus: *Ctenops* McClelland, 1845
232. *Ctenops nobilis* McClelland, 1845
English names: Indian Paradisefish, Frail Gourami, Indian Gourami
Local names: Neftani, Napit Khailsha, Modhumala
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, larvivorous. Likes to stay and swim in surface water. In winter it usually sticks to the roots of the water hyacinth
Genus: *Trichogaster* Schneider, 1801
233. *Trichogaster chuna* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Honey Gourami
Local names: Chuna Khailsha, Baicha
Habits and habitats: Omnivorous, benthopelagic. Keeps the water clean by consuming plankton, vegetation and detritus.
234. *Trichogaster pectoralis* (Regan, 1909)
English names: Snakeskin Gourami, Siamese Gourami

Local name: Gourami
Habits and habitats: Benthopelagic, potamodromous. Generally feeds on aquatic plants. Live food includes insects, *Tubifex*, insect larvae, crustaceans, flakes, pellets, chopped spinach and lettuce when the fish is reared in an aquarium. Can breathe air directly, as well as absorb oxygen from water through its gills. By feeding on aquatic plants, the fish plays the role of the first consumer in an aquatic food chain.
Family: Mastacembelidae
Genus: *Macrognathus* Lacepede, 1800
235. *Macrognathus aculeatus* (Bloch, 1786)
English names: Lesser Spiny Eel, One-stripe Spiny Eel, Spotted Spiny Eel, Peacock Spiny Eel
Local names: Tara Baim, Baim, Bam, Ban
Habits and habitats: A bottom-feeder. Feeds on detritus and insect larvae. Plays an important role in controlling the population of harmful insects in the environment through its feeding habits. It also helps to control water pollution by eating detritus.
236. *Macrognathus pancalus* Hamilton, 1822
English name: Striped Spiny Eel
Local names: Guchi Baim, Guchi, Chirka, Turi
Habits and habitats: Mostly debris-feeders. Some other food items include *Nymphula, Chironomus, Limnophilo, Culex, Eristalis, Ceratopogan,* etc. The species likes to hide in the bottom mud. Keeps the water clean by consuming detritus from the bottom of the aquatic environment. Sometimes competes with other spiny eels.
Genus: *Mastacembelus* Scopoli, 1777
237. *Mastacembelus armatus* (Lacepede, 1800)
English name: Tire-track Spiny Eel
Local names: Baim, Sal Baim, Bain, Bamosh, Bumni, Gont
Habits and habitats: Juveniles feed on crustacean and insect larvae. Adults feed on barbs, minnows, other small fishes, shrimps and prawns and tadpoles. Preys on fries of other species due to its predatory habit.
Order: Pleuronectiformes
Family: Bothidae
Genus: *Pseudorhombus* Bleeker, 1862
238. *Pseudorhombus arsius* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Large-toothed Flounder
Local names: Serbati, Bara Daitta Serbati
Habits and habitats: Demersal, oceanodromous. Carnivore, feeds on the benthic fauna. Controls benthic algae and detritus from the aquatic environment.
Family: Cynoglossidae
Genus: *Cynoglossus* Hamilton, 1822
239. *Cynoglossus arel* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)
English name: Largescale Tonguesole
Local name: Kukur Jeeb
Habits and habitats: Demersal amphidromous. Bottom-dwelling flat fish. The species has the habit of hiding full body under sand or soft bottom, and keeping the eyes outside to capture prey wandering to its peripheral areas. Feeds predominantly on the bottom-living invertebrates and small fishes.
240. *Cynoglossus cynoglossus* (Hamilton, 1822)
English names: Bengal Tongue Sole, Gangetic Tongue Sole
Local name: Kukur Jeeb
Habits and habitats: Inhabits muddy and sandy bottom of the continental shelf. Feeds mostly on bottom-living invertebrates. It has the habit of hiding its full body under sand or in the soft bottom, keeping eyes outside to capture prey wandering to its peripheral areas. Plays an important role in controlling bottom-living invertebrates
241. *Cynoglossus lingua* Hamilton, 1822
English name: Long Tongue Sole
Local name: Kukur Jeeb
Habits and habitats: Demersal, amphidromous. Enters estuaries and tidal rivers. Feeds mainly on the benthic invertebrates. Through its feeding habits the species controls the invertebrate populations of the benthic environment.
Genus: *Paraplagusia* Bleeker, 1865
242. *Paraplagusia bilineata* (Bloch, 1784)
English names: Fingerlip Tonguesole, Doublelined Tonguesole, Lemon Tonguesole
Local name: Kukur Jeeb
Habits and habitats: Feeds predominantly on the bottom-living invertebrates. Peaceful and quiet
Family: Soleidae
Genus: *Brachirus* Swainson, 1839
243. *Brachirus orientalis* (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)
English name: Oriental Sole
Local names: Danchoukka Serboti, Kathal Pata, Bat Pata

Habits and habitats: Carnivorous, feeding at the bottom, devouring mostly small fishes, bottom-dwelling invertebrates, especially small crustaceans, molluscs and others. Nocturnal animals, and most of the time they remain hidden in the sand at the bottom.

244. *Brachirus pan* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Pan Sole

Local names: Kathal Pata, Serbati, Pan Pata

Habits and habitats: Demersal. This is a nocturnal species and often hides in the sand at the bottom with exposed eyes and gills. Feeds mainly on bottom-dwelling invertebrates, especially small crustaceans.

Order: Beloniformes

Family: Belonidae

Genus: *Xenentodon* Regan, 1911

245. *Xenentodon cancila* (Hamilton, 1822)

English names: Freshwater Garfish, Needle Fish, Silver Needle Fish

Local names: Kankila, Kaikya, Kakila

Habits and habitats: Predator, live feeder, aggressive. Feeds on live fish, tadpoles, shrimp, crickets and other insects. Acts as a predator in the surface layer of the ecosystem.

Family: Hemiramphidae

Genus: *Dermogenys* van Hasselt, 1823

246. *Dermogenys brachynotopterus* (Bleeker, 1853)

English name: Gangetic Halfbeak

Local name: Ek Thota

Habits and habitats: Pelagic, inhabits estuaries. Viviparous. Feeds on insect larvae. By its feeding habits the species is known to control mosquito larvae in the aquatic habitat.

247. *Dermogenys pusillus* van Hasselt, 1823

English name: Wrestling Halfbeak

Local name: Ek Thota

Habits and habitats: Pelagic, these half beaks feed on insects and other live foods which they capture as they swim along the surface. By its feeding habits the species is known to control mosquito larvae in the aquatic ecosystems.

Genus: *Hyporhamphus* Gill, 1859

248. *Hyporhamphus limbatus* (Valenciennes, 1846)

English name: Congaturi Halfbeak

Local names: Ek Thuita, Ek Thota

Habits and habitats: Oviparous; pelagic, potamodromous. It moves in clusters, Mainly feeds on zooplankton and aquatic insects.

Genus: *Zenarchopterus* Gill, 1864

249. *Zenarchopterus ectuntio* (Hamilton, 1822)

English name: Ectuntio Halfbeak

Local names: Ek Thuitta, Ek Thota

Habits and habitats: Small-sized, the tail is vibrated rapidly to propel the fish. Usually travels in schools and feeds on floating sea grasses, crustaceans and small fishes. Controls the insect population of the aquatic ecosystem.

Order: Tetraodontiformes

Family: Tetraodontidae

Genus: *Tetraodon* Linnaeus, 1758

250. *Tetraodon cutcutia* Hamilton, 1822

English names: Ocellated Pufferfish, Common Pufferfish

Local names: Tepa, Kutkuitta, Patka

Habits and habitats: Occurs in ponds, beels, canals and rivers. Uses its teeth to crunch through the shells of molluscs and crustaceans on which it feeds. It can make a loud rasping noise by grinding the teeth. Not swift swimmers. It has the ability to inflate the body with air or water, gulping quickly and then turning upside down so that it can float to the surface. It expels the air or water rapidly with a loud belch to return to the normal size.

This fish has immense adaptive powers to survive. Food habit of the species changes according to its growth. Temperament of this species is comparatively peaceful.

Genus: *Chelonodon* Müller, 1839

251. *Chelonodon patoca* (Hamilton, 1822)

English names: Gangetic Pufferfish, Milk Spotted Puffer

Local names: Potka, Fotka

Habits and habitats: Omnivorous, anadromous. This fish has immense adaptive powers to survive. Food habit of the species changes according to growth. Temperament of this species is comparatively peaceful.

CONCLUSION

This is an annotated checklist of the freshwater fishes of Bangladesh. Of the 251 species of freshwater fishes IUCN Bangladesh (2000) rated about 54 as threatened, and about 66 as data deficient. Data deficient indicates that no information is available on the availability of these species. This means these fishes are also at risk. So, in practice about 50% of Bangladesh fish face different categories of threats. Pisciculture in closed and open waterbodies increases the threats to indigenous fish species. Many of Bangladeshis even do not know what species of fishes they have in their waterbodies. Since the origin of most of our major rivers is the Himalayas, this publication could be of some use to the ichthylogists in the region.

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