

Freshwater Molluscs from Mudbalwa Village Development Committee, Rautahat, Nepal

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Little attention has been paid to the molluscan diversity and its importance in Nepal. Limited contributions have been made on molluscs of Nepal, in spite of its richness. Fragmentary reports on molluscs of Nepal encompass the contributions of Schileyko and Kunznetsov (1996), Kunznetsov (1996), Kunznetsov and Schileyko (1997), Subba and Ghosh (2000, 2001, 2008), Subba (2003), Neesemann and Sharma (2003), Surana *et al.*, (2004). Subba and Pandey (2005), Subba and Ghosh (2008). Molluscan samples were collected from local fish ponds of Mudbalwa village Development Committee (VDC), Rautahat (N 26°44' - 27° 14' and E 85°14' - 85°30') with the help of scoop net and cast net. Hand picking technique was frequently applied in the collection. The collected dry shells were thoroughly cleaned with the help of soft toothbrush and water then left for a day in the sun to dry and kept in plastic containers. Live specimens were preserved in 70% alcohol and some in 5% formalin for further study. Identification of the specimens was done with the help of Subba Rao (1989) and other available literature.

The collection comprised nine of molluscs belonging to six families viz. Viviparidae, Pilidae, Planorbidae, Thiaridae, Amblemidae and Corbilidae. Out of six families, two families viz. Thiaridae and Amblemidae are represented by two species (Table 1). No representation of Lymnaeidae was found in the collection time. The population of *Bellamya crassa* and *Thiara fabirculasa* was comparatively more than that of other species. In the same time *Bellamya crassa* has not been reported from any parts of Nepal yet.

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Table 1 List of mollusc in Mudbalwa VDC

Family	Scientific name
Viviparidae	<i>Bellamya bengalensis f. typica</i> (Lamarck, 1882) <i>Bellamya crassa</i> (Benson 1836)
Pilidae	<i>Pila globosa</i> (Swainson)
Planorbidae	<i>Indoplanorbis exutus</i> (Deshayes)
Thiaridae	<i>Thiara tuberculata</i> (Mueller, 1774) <i>Brotia (Antimelania) costula</i> (Rafinesque, 1833)
Amblemidae	<i>Parreysia favidens</i> (Lea, 1831) <i>Lamellidens marginalis</i> (Lamarck, 1819)
Corbiculidae	<i>Corbicula striatella</i> (Deshayes, 1854)