

Fish Fauna and Fish Production of Tribal District West Nimar (Khargone) of M. P., India

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Abstract

A survey of fish fauna was conducted between July 1998 and December 1999. The fishes were collected from the local market of block head quarters of the tribal district West Nimar (Khargone). In all 40 species belonging to 23 genera and 10 families have been found in this area. They are *Cirrhinus*, *Catla*, *Chela*, *Labeo*, *Oxygaster*, *Puntius*, *Garra*, *Barbus*, *Rasbora* and *Tor* belonging to Cyprinidae family; *Lepidocephalichthys*, *Nemacheilus* belonging to Cobitidae family; *Ompok* and *Wallago* belonging to Siluridae family; *Mystus* and *Rita* belonging to Bagridae family; *Notopterus*, *Heteropneustus*, *Clarias*, *Xenotodon*, *Channa* and *Matacembelus* belonging to Notopteridae, Heteropneustidae, Clariidae, Belontiidae, Ophiocephalidae and Matacembelidae family respectively. It is also observed that non culturable fishes are most widely distributed and the commercial culturable fishes are commonly found in the region. In the present paper, the fish fauna of the district West Nimar is discussed.

Key Words: Fish fauna, west Nimar, fish production

Introduction

The complete account of the fish fauna of Madhya Pradesh is not available. Day 1889 has published fish fauna of British India including Ceylon and Burma. Since then there have been several publications on the fish fauna of various parts of India. Noteworthy publications are of Hamilton 1922, Misra 1952, Menon 1954 and Srivastava 1968. As far as Madhya Pradesh is concerned several studies have been done in the past. The fish fauna of Mahanadi was published by Hora 1940. Swarup 1953 and Qureshi and Qureshi 1970 studied the fishes of Sagar lake. Soni 1959 gave an account of fishes of lower lake of Bhopal. Dubey and Mehra 1959 described the fishes at Jabalpur. Misra, 1962 gave an account of fishes available in the M. P. The present communication is an attempt to report the fish fauna of tribal district of west Nimar.

The tribal District West Nimar is situated in the west southern part of Madhya Pradesh, between the latitudes 21° 25' and 22° 35' North and longitude 74° 25' and 76° 140' East. The total area of this district is 13285 sq. km. and it is on the 7th position in the state. The elevation varies from 500 feet to 1365 feet above MSL. The average annual rain fall is 830 mm. The lowest temperature is 12°C in winter and maximum temperature is 46 °C in summer season. The total catchment area of river Narmada is 121 km in this region. The total water area is 4199.583 ha. Map of District West Nimar is shown in Fig. 1.

Materials and Methods

The fishes were collected with the help of nets from all possible habitats and from market of different block headquarters such as Khargone, Seagone, Zimiya, Niwali, Bhagwanpura, Barwah Pansmal, Pati, Barwani, Rajpur, Thikri, Gogawa, Kasrawad, Bhikangoan, and Maheswar between July 1998 and December 1999 after first monsoon showers. The 10 % formalin solution was injected in the the body. The samples were identified with the help of standard literature available. The specimen were deposited in the museum of Zoology Department of Post Graduate college, Khargone.

Results and Discussion

In all, 40 species of fish fauna belongings to 23 genera and 10 families were identified from this region these are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. The fish fauna of the Tribal District West Nimar

Family		Species
1.	Notopteridae	1. <i>Notopterus notopterus</i> (Pallas)
2.	Cyprinidae	2. <i>Cirrhinus mrigala</i> (Ham.)
		3. <i>Cirrhinus reba</i> (Ham.)
		4. <i>Barilus bola</i> (Ham.)
		5. <i>Catla catla</i> (Ham.)
		6. <i>Chela laubuea</i> (Ham.)
		7. <i>Chela atpar</i> (Ham.)
		8. <i>Barilus barna</i> (Ham.)
		9. <i>Labeo rohita</i> (Ham.)
		10. <i>Labeo calbasu</i> (Ham.)
		11. <i>Labeo bata</i> (Ham.)
		12. <i>Labeo boga</i> (Bloch)
		13. <i>Labeo genius</i> (Ham.)
		14. <i>Oxygaster bacaila</i> (Ham.)
		15. <i>Puntius ticto</i> (Ham.)
		16. <i>Puntius Sarana</i> (Ham.)
		17. <i>Puntius sophore</i> (Ham.)
		18. <i>Rasbora doniconius</i> (Ham.)
		19. <i>Tor tor</i> (Ham.)
		20. <i>Tor putitera</i> (Ham.)
		21. <i>Gara gotyala</i> (Ham.)
		22. <i>Barbus pinnauratus</i> (Ham.)
		23. <i>Barbus tor</i> (Ham.)
3.	Cobitidae	24. <i>Lepidocephlichthys guntea</i> (Ham.)
4.	Siluridae	25. <i>Nemacheilus beavani</i> (Day)
		26. <i>Nemacheilus aurius</i> (Day)
5.	Bagridae	27. <i>Ompak bimaculatus</i> (Bloch.)
		28. <i>Wallgo attu</i> (Bouch & Sohn.)
6.	Heteropneustidae or Saccobranchidae	29. <i>Mystus seenghala</i> (Sykes.)
		30. <i>Mystus aor</i> (Ham.)
		31. <i>Mystus bleekeri</i> (Day.)
		32. <i>Rita rita</i> (Ham.)
		33. <i>Heteropneustus fossils</i> (Bloch.)
		34. <i>Clarias batrachus</i> (Linnaeus)
		35. <i>Xenentodon cancila</i> (Ham.)
		36. <i>Channa punctatus</i> (Ble.)
		37. <i>Channa gachua</i> (Ham.)
		38. <i>Channa marulius</i> (Ham.)
7.	Claridae	39. <i>Matacembelus pancalus</i> (Ham.)
		40. <i>Matacembelus armatus</i> (Lacepede)
8.	Belonidae	
9.	Ophiocephalidae	
10.	Matacemelidae	

Dubey and Mehra 1959 in the survey of Chambal river, reported 71 different species of fishes. Soni 1959 described 35 different type of fishes in lower lake of Bhopal. Dubey and Verma 1965 gave an account of 104 species of fishes of Madhya Pradesh. Badola 1975 reported the fish fauna of Garhwal Himalaya, Khanna and Badola 1990 reported the ichthyofauna of the river Ganga from at the foot hills of Garhwal Himalaya. In the present survey, however, 40 species belonging to Notopteridae, Claridae, Belonidae, Cobitidae, Siluridae, Bagridae, Heteropneustidae, Claridae, Belonidae, Ophiocephalidae and Matacembelidae families were identified from this region (Table 1). It was also observed that the non culturable fishes are most widely distributed and the commercial culturable fishes are common in this region.

The yearwise total fish production in the district is shown in Table 2 and Fig. 2. It was lowest in 1993-94 while in the year 1998-99 it was highest. The reason behind the lowest production in the year 1993-94 was low rainfall on one hand and non availability of good seeds on the other hand. The maximum production defeating all the previous records resulted due to the implementation of Rajiv Gandhi Mission and the availability of the good seeds, which was missing in the previous years. Need not to say the Rajiv Gandhi Mission motivated the people

to come forward and to be benefited by the programmes for the upliftment of them laid down by the Government.

Fig. 1: Map of district West Nimar (Khargone), M.P.

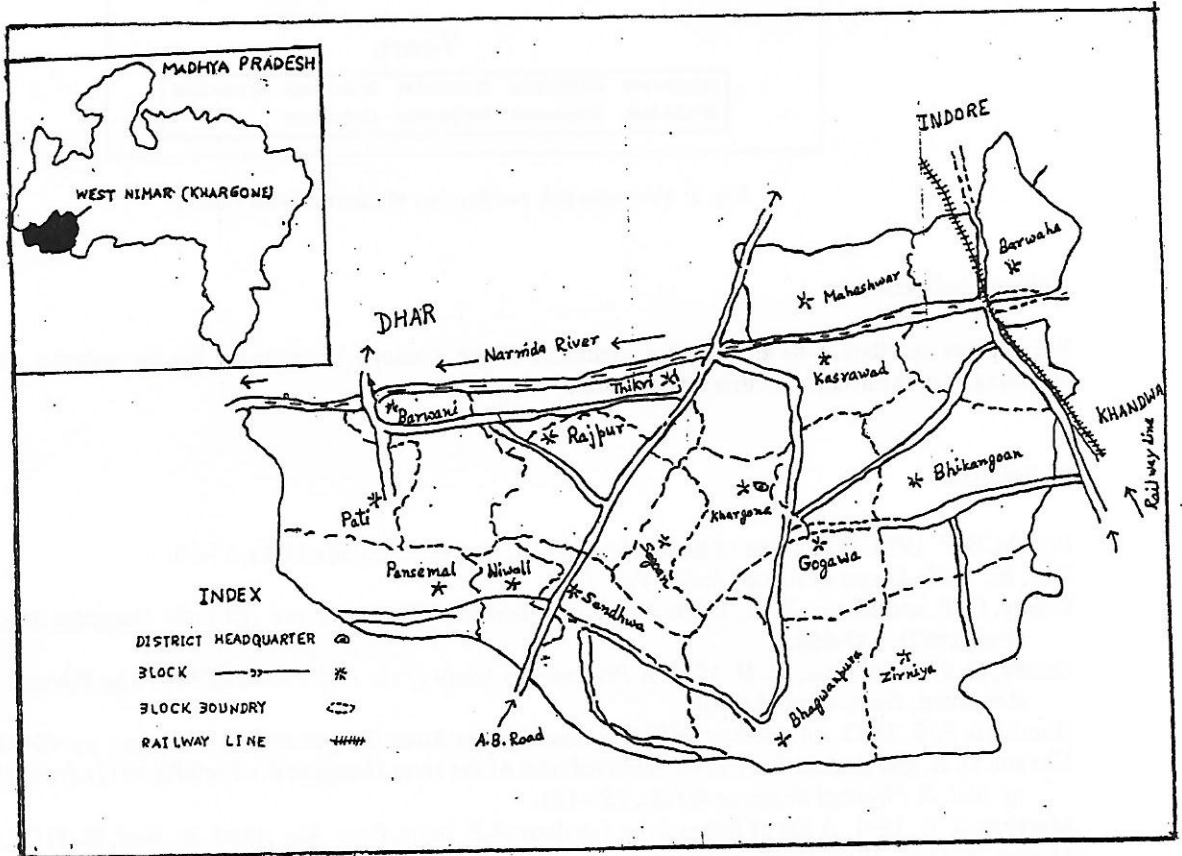


Table 2. The year wise fish production in Tribal District West Nimar

Sl. No	Years	Fish production (MT)
1.	1990-91	419
2.	1991-92	367
3.	1992-93	485
4.	1993-94	279
5.	1994-95	300
6.	1995-96	1396
7.	1996-97	1625
8.	1997-98	1660
9.	1998-99	1728

Sources: Annual report of District Fisheries Office.

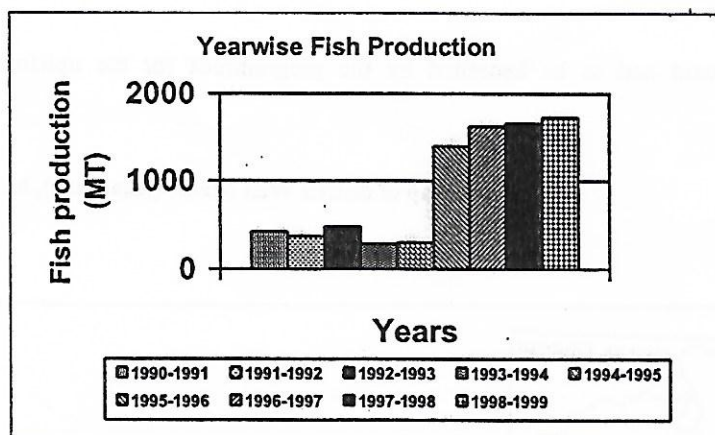


Fig. 2: Yearwise fish production of district West Nimar

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