



## Studies on fish diversity of Tighra reservoir Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, India

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### Abstract

The fish species identified from the Tighra reservoir resulted into 40 species, belonging to 6 orders, 10 families and 22 genera. The maximum number of 22 fish species belongs to family Cyprinidae with 55% of share, followed by family Channidae and Berridae having 4 species each with 10% share, followed by family Mastacembelidae and Siluridae having 2 species each with 5% share. The family Ambassidae, Belontiidae, Clariidae and Heteropneustidae represented by one species each with a share of 2.5%. According to IUCN (2012) out of 40 species of fishes one species is endangered, one is vulnerable, three are near-threatened, one is data deficient and rest species are least concern.

**Keywords:** IUCN, conservation status, Tighra reservoir

### 1. Introduction

Fishes constitute half of the total number of vertebrates in the world 21,723 living species of fish out of 39,900 species of vertebrates are so far recorded [1]. They live in almost all conceivable aquatic habitats. At present nearly 22,000 fish species are known to man of these 40% are inhabitants of fresh and inland waters. Whereas in India it is estimated that about 25,000 fish species are found within which around 930 species are freshwater fishes. The freshwater fishes are distributed amongst approximately 20 orders, 100 families and 300 genera [2]. Fish diversity of undivided India and various Indian states has been described by Jerdon [3], Dutta and Majumdar [4], Tilak and Hussain [5], Srivastava [6], Venkateswarlu and Rao [7], Johal and Tondon [8], Kaul *et al.* [9], Lipton [10], Dutta and Malhotra [11], Tilak and Baloni [12], Sen [13], Molur and Walker [14], Johal and Rawal [15], Daniels [16], Meshram and Meshram [17], Hiware [18] and Rao [19].

Day [20] described the fishes and their distribution in India including that of Madhya Pradesh. Though, the formal study of fish fauna in Madhya Pradesh starts with the work of D'Abreu [21], Hora [22], Malviya [23], Dubey and Mehra [24], Dwivedi *et al.* [25], Shukla *et al.* [26], Garg *et al.* [27], Chandra *et al.* [28], Mohar [29], Vyas *et al.* [30] and Paunikar *et al.* [31].

Fish fauna of Gwalior division was described by Agarwal and Saksena [32], Dubey *et al.* [33], Rao *et al.* [34], Saxena and Srivastava [35], Rao [36], Mahor [37] and Uchchariya *et al.* [38]. Therefore the present study deals with the biodiversity of fish their conservation status and conservation measures.

### 2. Materials and Methods

Tighra reservoir, constructed on the Saank River in the year 1917 near Tighra village in Gwalior district, Madhya Pradesh, has been selected for the study (Fig.1). Geographically, the Tighra reservoir lies on 78° 01' 24" E longitude and 26° 12' 59" N latitude. The Reservoir is a deep water pool, surrounded by slopy lands, Hillocks and rocky outcrops. The deeper part

consists of vegetative as well as muddy substratum and is habitat for numerous fish species. Fishes were collected from the reservoir with the help of local fishermen by using different types of nets including gill net, cast net, and dip net etc. Some fishes were identified at the spot and were recorded. The specimen, which could not be identified, were marked, coded and were preserved in 10% formalin and brought to the laboratory for identification. Identification was made after consulting several literatures, such as Jayaram [1], Talwar and Jhingran [39] and Srivastava [6].



Fig 1: Satellite image of Tighra reservoir (www.google.com)

### 3. Results

During the study a total of 40 species of fishes, belonging to 6 orders, 10 families and 22 genera were recorded (Table 1). The identified fish species include *Catla catla*, *Cirrhinus mrigala*, *Cirrhinus reba*, *Labeo rohita*, *Labeo calbasu*, *Labeo gonius*, *Labeo boggut*, *Labeo bata*, *Labeo fimbriatus*, *Cyprinus carpio*, *Puntius sarana*, *Puntius ticto*, *Puntius chonchonius*, *Puntius sophore*, *Puntius amphibious*, *Tor puitora*, *Osteobrama cotio*, *Salmostoma bacaila*, *Salmostoma clupeioides*, *Rasbora daniconius*, *Laubuca laubuca*, *Amblypharyngodon mola*, *Parambassis ranga*, *Channa marulius*, *Channa striata*, *Channa punctata*, *Channa gachua*,

*Xenentodon cancila*, *Mastacembelus armatus*, *Mastacembelus pancalus*, *Sperata seenghala*, *Sperata aor*, *Mystus bleekeri*, *Wallago attu*, *Ompok bimaculatus*, *Notopterus chitala*, *Notopterus notopterus*, *Clarias batrachus* and *Heteropneustes fossilis* (Fig. 5-22).

Order Cypriniformes consists of 11 genera (50%) under 1 family (10%), Siluriformes consists of 6 genera (27.27%)

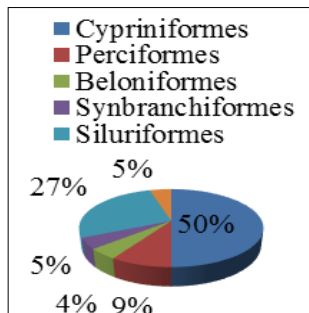


Fig 2: Percent contribution of genera in an order

under 4 families (40%), Perciformes consist of 2 genera (9.09%) under 2 families (20%), Beloniformes consists of 1 genera (4.55%) under 1 family (10%), Synbranchiformes consists of 1 genera (4.55%) under 1 family (10%) and Osteoglossiformes consists of 1 genera (4.55%) under 1 family (10%) (Fig. 2 and 3).

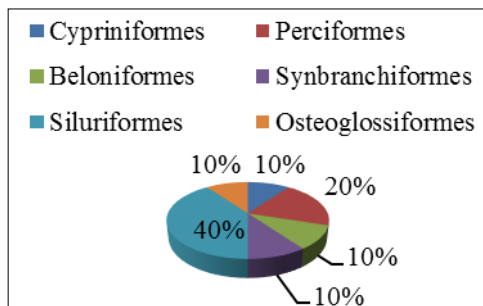


Fig 3: Percent contribution of families in an order

Table 1

Order	Families	Genera	Species	% contribution of families in an order	% contribution of genera in an order
Cypriniformes	1	11	22	10%	50%
Perciformes	2	2	5	20%	9.09%
Beloniformes	1	1	1	10%	4.55%
Synbranchiformes	1	1	2	10%	4.55%
Siluriformes	4	6	8	40%	27.27%
Osteoglossiformes	1	1	2	10%	4.55%

The maximum number of 22 fish species belongs to family Cyprinidae with 55% of share, followed by family Channidae and Begridae having 4 species each with 10% share, followed by family Mastacembelidae and Siluridae having 2 species

each with 5% share. The family Ambassidae, Belonidae, Clariidae and Heteropneustidae represented by one species each with a share of 2.5% (Fig. 4).

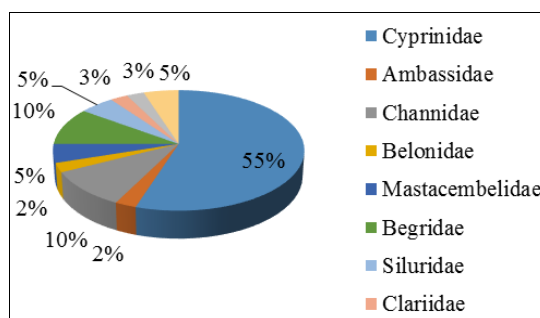


Fig 4: Percent contribution of fish species to different fami



Fig 5: *Mastacembelus armatus*



Fig 6: *Labeo calbasu*



Fig 7: *Sperata seenghala*



**Fig 8:** *Xenentodon cancila*



**Fig 9:** *Rasbora daniconius*



**Fig 10:** *Osteobrama cotio*



**Fig 11:** *Parambassis ranga*



**Fig 12:** *Heteropneustes fossilis*



**Fig 13:** *Puntius amphibius*



**Fig 14:** *Clarias batrachus*



**Fig 15:** *Labeo gonius*



**Fig 16:** *Cirrhinus reba*



**Fig 17:** *Channa marulius*



**Fig18:** *Wallago attu*



**Fig 19:** *Ompok bimaculatus*



**Fig 20:** *Salmostoma clupeoides*



**Fig 21:** *Notopterus notopterus*



**Fig 22:** *Labeo rohita*

#### 4. Conservation status

Conservation status of fishes in the Tighra reservoir of Gwalior have been assessed as per criteria of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) under five categories as EN (Endangered), VU (Vulnerable), NT (Near-threatened), LC (Least concern) and DD (Data deficient). Among 40 species of fishes one (*Tor putitora*) is endangered, one (*Cyprinus carpio*) is vulnerable, three (*Wallago attu*, *Ompok bimaculatus*, *Notopterus chitala*) are near-threatened, one (*Puntius amphibious*) is data deficient and rest species are least concern (Table 1).

#### 5. Discussion

Quantifying biodiversity is one of the most complicated aspects of biodiversity [40]. In India, 2,246 indigenous fin-fishes have been described of which 765 belongs to freshwater [41]. In and around Gwalior, the interest in fish fauna has been quite old. Dubey and Mehra [24] studied fish fauna of Chambal River and reported 71 species of fishes from the river. In all 48 species belonging to the 9 different orders, 17 families and 34 genera were identified from Gwalior region with maximum contribution is of family Cyprinidae which is up to 45.71% [32]. A total of 71 fish species were recorded from Chambal division with maximum contribution is of family Cyprinidae which is up to 39.58% [33]. Saxena and Shrivastava [35] recorded 46 species of fishes from Kunwari river of Chambal division with maximum contribution of family Cyprinidae which is up to 47.82%. Rao *et al.* [34] reported 41 species from Gandhi Sagar reservoir out of which the family Cyprinidae alone contributed 53.65%. In Gambhir dam, Ujjain, a total of 30 species of fishes were recorded which belonged to 6 orders, 10 families and 17 genera [26]. Garg *et al.* [27] have studied fish and fisheries Ramsagar reservoir, Datia and recorded 42 fish species belonging to 6 orders, 15 families and 28 genera; fish fauna of this reservoir is also dominated by order Cypriniformes with 52.38% contribution. Paunekar *et al.* [31] reported 33 fish species belonging to 5 orders viz., Cypriniformes, Siliriformes, Synbranchiformes, Perciformes and beloniformes with a dominance of fish of order Cypriniformes in Gour River Jabalpur. A total of 60 species of

fishes recorded from Betwa River, with Cyprinidae family was also found most dominant with a contribution of 48% followed by Bagridae contributing 10% of the total fish species [30]. Uchchariya *et al.* [38] reported 40 species of fishes belonging to 8 orders, 12 families and 23 genera, from Tighra reservoir out of which the order Cypriniformes was found to be a major order with percent contribution of 55.0%, followed by Siluri-formes with 20.0%, Perciformes with 15.0%, Synbranchiformes with 5.0% and Osteoglossiformes and Beloniformes each with 1.5%. The present study recorded 40 species of fishes from the Tighra Reservoir belonging to 6 orders, 10 families and 22 genera, the maximum number of 22 fish species belongs to family Cyprinidae with 55% of share, followed by family Channidae and Bagridae having 4 species each with 10% share, followed by family Mastacembelidae and Siluridae having 2 species each with 5% share. The family Ambassidae, Belonidae, Clariidae and Heteropneustidae represented by one species each with a share of 2.5%. Sreekantha *et al.* [42] reported 9 fish species as endangered, 12 species of fish vulnerable, 21 species lower risk near threatened and 1 species as a critically endangered in the region of Western Ghats of India. while (Uchchariya *et al.* [38] reported 2 fish species as endangered, 8 species vulnerable, 22 species lower risk near threatened, 3 species lower risk least concern, 4 species data deficient and 1 species exotic in the Tighra reservoir. Out of 40 species of fishes recorded during present study one species is endangered, one is vulnerable, three are near-threatened, one is data deficient and rest species are least concern.

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**Table 2:** List of fishes recorded in the Tighra reservoir

S. No.	Order	Family	Local Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Status
1	Cypriniformes	Cyprinidae	Catla	Catla catla	LC
2			Mrigal	Cirrhinus mrigala	LC
3			Naren	Cirrhinus reba	LC
4			Rohu	Labeo rohita	LC
5			Calbasu/ kriya	Labeo calbasu	LC
6			Kursa	Labeo gonius	LC
7			Boga	Labeo boggut	LC
8			Bata	Labeo bata	LC
9			Cut Rohu	Labeo fimbriatus	LC
10			Common carp	Cyprinus carpio	VU
11			Puthia	Puntius sarana	LC
12			Khadia	Puntius ticto	LC
13			Khadia	Puntius chonchonius	LC
14			Khadia	Puntius sophore	LC
15			Khadia	Puntius amphibious	DD
16			Mahasheer	Tor putitora	EN
17			Gudgudi	Osteobrama cotio	LC

18			Chilua	<i>Salmostoma bacaila</i>	LC
19			Silhani	<i>S. clupeioides</i>	LC
20			Zhan zara	<i>Rasbora daniconius</i>	LC
21			Dhawai	<i>Amblypharyngodon mola</i>	LC
22				<i>Laubuca laubuca</i>	LC
23		Ambassidae	Chanda	<i>Parambassis ranga</i>	LC
24			Sol	<i>Channa marulius</i>	LC
25			Sol	<i>Channa gachua</i>	LC
26	Perciformes	Chanidae	Durkasol	<i>Channa striata</i>	LC
27			Gilgonch	<i>Channa punctata</i>	LC
28	Beloniformes	Belonidae	Suja	<i>Xenentodon cancila</i>	LC
29			Baam	<i>Mastacembelus armatus</i>	LC
30	Synbranchiformes	Mastacembelidae	Baam	<i>Mastacembelus pancalus</i>	LC
31			Singhara	<i>Sperata seenghala</i>	LC
32			Tengra	<i>Sperata aor</i>	LC
33			Kitua	<i>Mystus cavasius</i>	LC
34			Kirua	<i>Mystus bleekeri</i>	LC
35			Lonch	<i>Wallago attu</i>	NT
36			Pauda	<i>Ompok bimaculatus</i>	NT
37	Siluriformes	Clariidae	Mangur	<i>Clarias batrachus</i>	LC
38		Heteropneustidae	Singhi	<i>Heteropneustes fossilis</i>	LC
39			Chital/ Moy	<i>Notopterus chitala</i>	NT
40	Osteoglossiformes	Notopteridae	Patola	<i>Notopterus notopterus</i>	LC

LC = Least Concern, NT = Near-threatened, VU = vulnerable, DD = Data Deficient, EN = Endangered

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