



## Checklist of freshwater fishes collected from Ernakulam District, Kerala, India

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Aquarium fishes have gained much attention in recent years. Kerala has immense developmental potential in aquarium fishery. Many ichthyological surveys are going on to study the fish fauna of our rivers. The NBSAP (2002) has reported the presence of 159 freshwater fishes in Kerala. Though district wise and river wise diversity studies are going on in Kerala, not much has been recorded on the fresh water fishes in Ernakulam District, Kerala. With this paucity in mind, an attempt has been made to document the freshwater fishes in the rivers of Ernakulam District, Kerala. The systematics of the collected fishes was also studied.

Eleven sampling stations were selected, viz, Angadikkadavu (Station-I) and Chalakkudythode (Station-II) in Chalakkudy River; Ooramana in Muvattupuzha (Station-III), Peruvamuzhy (Station-IV), Vellore near Piravom (Station-V) and Thengode near Idachira, Kakkanad (Station-VI) in Muvattupuzha River; Aluva (Station-VII), Madathumoola near Desom (Station-VIII), Parambepalam (Station-IX), Kalady (Station-X) and Panieli (Station-XI) in Periyar. The streams and channels opening to the various centres were also included for collecting samples.

Monthly collections were made for a period of two years from January 2000 to December 2001. Fishes were collected using cast and scoop nets.

Standard methods (Nelson 1984; Talwar & Jhingran 1991; Jayaram 1999) were used for the classification and identification

of fishes. The identification was further confirmed with the Zoological Survey of India.

The study indicates that the rivers in Ernakulam are rich in fish diversity. 69 species were collected during the study. Based on their availability and abundance in the collection, they were classified in to abundant species (\*\*\*\*), common species (\*\*\*), rare species (\*\*), very rare species (\*) and their absence by "0". There were 17 abundant species, 13 common species, 31 rare species and nine very rare species in the study. The systematic positions of the fishes collected during the study are shown in Table: 1. Of the collected fishes, 35 species have high demand in the domestic and international ornamental fish market. These fishes are marked with an asterisk mark in their serial numbers.

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**Table 1. List of freshwater fishes collected from the rivers of Ernakulam District, Kerala.**

	Abundance in rivers		
	CHA	MUV	PER
Family Cyprinidae			
1# <i>Amblypharyngodon mellestinus</i> (Valenciennes)	****	****	****
2# <i>Barilius bakeri</i> Day	**	**	**
3 <i>Barilius canarensis</i> (Jerdon)	*	**	**
4# <i>Barilius gatensis</i> (Valenciennes)	0	**	**
5# <i>Chela dadiburjori</i> (Menon)	**	**	**
6# <i>Chela fasciata</i> Silas	**	**	**
7# <i>Danio aequipinnatus</i> (Mc Clelland)	****	****	****
8 <i>Danio fraseri</i> (Hora and Mukerji)			*
9 <i>Danio malabaricus</i> (Jerdon)	****	****	****
10 <i>Esomus malabaricus</i> Day	0	*	0
11 <i>Garra gotyla stenorhynchus</i> (Jerdon)	0	*	*
12 <i>Garra mullya</i> (Sykes)	**	**	**
13# <i>Gonoproktopterus curmuca</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	**	**	**
14# <i>Gonoproktopterus thomassi</i> (Day)	**	0	**
15# <i>Horadandia attukorali</i> Deraniyagala	****	****	****
16# <i>Parluciosoma daniconius</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	****	****	****
17 <i>Puntius amphibius</i> (Valenciennes)	****	****	****
18 <i>Puntius chola</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	**	**	**
19 <i>Puntius crescentus</i> Yazdani & Singh	***	***	0
20 <i>Puntius denisonii</i> (Day)	0	0	**
21# <i>Puntius fasciatus</i> (Jerdon)	**	**	**
22# <i>Puntius filamentosus</i> (Valenciennes)	****	****	****
23 <i>Puntius melanostigma</i> (Day)	0	**	**
24 <i>Puntius muvattupuzhaensis</i> Jameela Beevi & Ramachandran	0	**	**
25 <i>Puntius parrah</i> Day	**	**	**
26 <i>Puntius punctatus</i> Day	**	**	**
27# <i>Puntius sarana sarana</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	**	**	**
28 <i>Puntius sarana subnasutus</i> (Valenciennes)	***	***	***
29# <i>Puntius vittatus</i> Day	****	****	****
30 <i>Salmostoma acinaces</i> (Valenciennes)	**	**	**
31 <i>Salmostoma boopis</i> (Day)	**	**	**
Family Balitoridae			
32# <i>Mesonemacheilus triangularis</i> Day	**	0	0

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Family Cobitidae				
33 <sup>#</sup>	<i>Lepidocephalus thermalis</i> (Valenciennes)	***	***	***
Family Bagridae				
34 <sup>#</sup>	<i>Horabagrus brachysoma</i> (Gunther)	***	***	***
35	<i>Mystus armatus</i> (Day)	***	***	***
36 <sup>#</sup>	<i>Mystus malabaricus</i> (Jerdon)	**	**	**
37 <sup>#</sup>	<i>Mystus montanus</i> (Jerdon)	****	****	****
38	<i>Mystus vittatus</i> (Bloch)	**	**	**
Family Siluridae				
39 <sup>#</sup>	<i>Ompok bimaculatus</i> (Bloch)	***	***	***
40	<i>Ompok malabaricus</i> (Valenciennes)	***	***	***
41 <sup>#</sup>	<i>Wallago attu</i> (Bloch & Schneider)	*	0	0
Family Heteropneustidae				
42 <sup>#</sup>	<i>Heteropneustes fossilis</i> (Bloch)	**	*	*
Family Hemirhamphidae				
43	<i>Hyporhamphus limbatus</i> (Valenciennes)	**	**	***
44	<i>Hyporhamphus xanthopterus</i> (Valenciennes)	**	**	**
Family Belontiidae				
45	<i>Xenotodon cancila</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	***	***	***
46	<i>Strongylura strongylura</i> (van Hasselt)	0	0	*
Family Aplocheilidae				
47 <sup>#</sup>	<i>Aplocheilus blocki</i> (Arnold)	****	****	****
48 <sup>#</sup>	<i>Aplocheilus lineatus</i> (Valenciennes)	****	****	****
49 <sup>#</sup>	<i>Aplocheilus panchax</i> (Hamilton & Buchanan)	****	****	****
Family Chandidae (Ambassidae)				
50	<i>Chanda nama</i> Hamilton & Buchanan	**	**	**
51 <sup>#</sup>	<i>Parambassis dayi</i> (Bleeker)	**	**	**
52 <sup>#</sup>	<i>Parambassis thomassi</i> (Day)	**	**	**
Family Nandidae				
53	<i>Nandus nandus</i> (Hamilton & Buchanan)	***	***	***
Family Cichlidae				
54 <sup>#</sup>	<i>Etroplus maculatus</i> (Bloch)	****	****	****
55 <sup>#</sup>	<i>Etroplus suratensis</i> (Bloch)	****	****	****
Family Belontiidae				
56 <sup>#</sup>	<i>Pseudosphromenus cupanus</i> (Valenciennes)	****	****	****
57 <sup>#</sup>	<i>Pseudosphromenus dayi</i> Engmann	****	****	****
Family Anabantidae				
58 <sup>#</sup>	<i>Anabas testudineus</i> (Bloch)	***	***	***
Family Gobiidae				
59	<i>Awaous stamineus</i> (Valenciennes)	**	**	*
60	<i>Glossogobius giuris</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	****	****	****
Family Channidae				
61 <sup>#</sup>	<i>Channa gachua</i> (Hamilton & Buchanan)	**	**	**
62	<i>Channa marulius</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	**	**	**
63 <sup>#</sup>	<i>Channa orientalis</i> Bloch & Schneider	***	***	***
64	<i>Channa striatus</i> (Bloch)	***	***	***
Family Synbranchidae				
65	<i>Ophisternon bengalense</i> Mc Clelland	0	*	*
Family Mastacembelidae				
66 <sup>#</sup>	<i>Mastacembelus armatus</i> (Lacepede)	**	**	**
67	<i>Mastacembelus guentheri</i> (Day)	**	**	**
Family Clupeidae				
68	<i>Dayella malabarica</i> (Day)	0	0	*
Family Tetraodontidae				
69 <sup>#</sup>	<i>Tetraodon travancoricus</i> Hora and Nair	****	****	****

CHA - Chalakkudy River; MUV - Muvattupuzha River; PER - Periyar River;  
 \*\*\*\* - Very common; \*\*\* - Common; \*\* - Rare; \* - Very rare; # - in heavy trade

