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NOTE

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ICHTHYOFAUNA OF UDAYASAMUDRAM RESERVOIR IN NALGONDA DISTRICT, TELANGANA STATE, INDIA

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India has rich ichthyofaunal diversity in streams, rivers, reservoirs, subterranean systems, traditional lakes and domestic ponds, represented by about 2,486 species (including 937 species of freshwater fish and 1624 species of marine fish, of which 194 are endemic; Froese & Pauly 2017). Telangana State is located in the basin of two major rivers—Godavari and Krishna. These rivers with their major tributaries form the chief perennial river systems. Besides these there are a large number of seasonal streams, several man-made reservoirs, backwaters, and tanks in Telangana.

Very few studies have been conducted on the diversity of freshwater fishes in water bodies and reservoirs of both Andhra Pradesh (David 1963; Barman 1993) and Telangana (Rahimullah 1944; Mahmood & Rahimullah 1947; Chandrasekhar 2003; Rao et al. 2011). Till date,

there are no studies available on the fish fauna of the reservoirs in Nalgonda District, Telangana.

To fill this lacuna, we conducted surveys on the ichthyofaunal diversity of Udayasamudram Reservoir, also known as Panagal Reservoir (17.07777778 N & 79.30277778 E), located on the eastern side of Panagal Village, near the town of Nalgonda, the district headquarters (Image 1). The main source of water in the reservoir is the inflow from the Krishna River through open-canal systems constructed for drinking and irrigation water supply, as well as from seasonal rains. The ayacut area is about 1,287 acres with a total catchment area of about 29.50km².

The study was conducted from March 2013 to February 2016. Four sites were selected, and fish samples were collected using cast nets, gill nets, and other traditional methods with the help of local fishers. Specimens were collected, photographed, labelled, and preserved in 4% formalin solution. The voucher specimens (NHM.OU.F-K.01-2015 to 20-2015) and photo vouchers (NHM.OU.F-K-PV 01-2015 to 20-2015) are deposited in the Natural History Museum of Osmania University, Department of Zoology, Osmania University, Hyderabad. The fishes were identified up to species level using standard literature (Jayaram & Sanyal 2003; Talwar & Jhingran 1991; Jayaram 2010), and threat status of the fish was retrieved from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016 (IUCN 2016). Nomenclature



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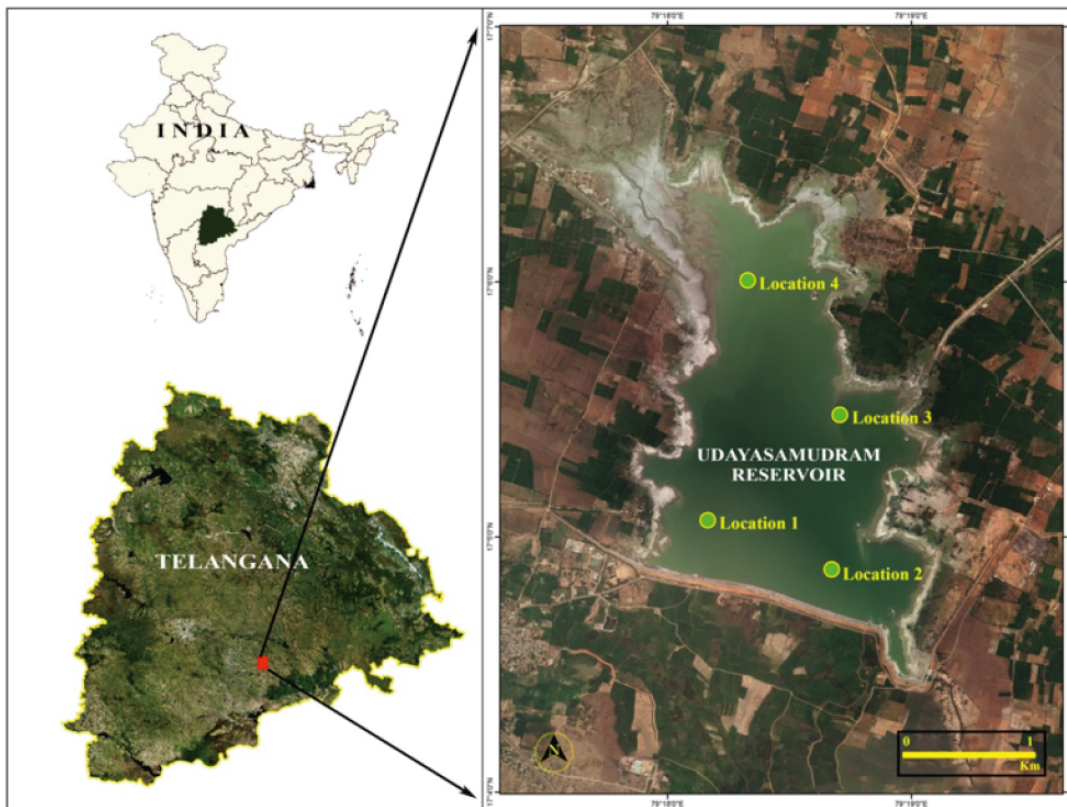


Image 1. Location of Udayasamudram Reservoir, Nalgonda District, Telangana State, India. [Maps of India and Telangana State are indicative and are not to scale; map of Udayasamudram Reservoir is sourced from Google Earth, and is scaled as indicated]

of fishes follows Eschmeyer et al. (2016). The relative abundance of fishes observed during the present study has been represented in four different categories viz., (i) abundant (>75% of the total catch), (ii) common (>50% and <75% of the total catch), (iii) moderate (>25% and <50% of the total catch), and (iv) rare (>0% and <25% of the total catch).

A total of 38 species belonging to 15 families and 32 genera were recorded. Of the total, nine species were abundant, 12 species were common, 11 species were moderate and six species were rare in occurrence (Table 1; Images 2–36). No threatened species were observed while four species belonged to Near Threatened, and 34 to Least Concern categories of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Order Cypriniformes dominated with 14 species (representing 36.84% of the total fish diversity of the reservoir) followed by Perciformes with 10 species (26.31%), Siluriformes with nine species (22.50%), Beloniformes with two species (5.0%), Osteoglossiformes, Synbranchiformes and Anguilliformes with one species each (2.50% each). The maximum number of families were in the orders Siluriformes (Bagridae, Siluridae, Clariidae, Pangasiidae, and Heteropneustidae) and

Perciformes (Channidae, Gobiidae, Cichlidae, and Ambassidae) followed by Beloniformes (Belonidae and Hemiramphidae). The rest of the orders had one family each.

The ichthyofaunal diversity of the Udayasamudram Reservoir is represented by species such as *Gibelion catla*, *Labeo rohita*, *Cyprinus carpio*, *Cirrhinus mrigala*, *Mystus cavasius*, *Mystus vittatus*, *Channa striata*, and *Channa marulius*, which were also reported as common species in the Krishna River system in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh (Jayaram 2010).

Recent publications on fish fauna of Telangana are mostly in grey and predatory literature and have contributed to more confusion; therefore we do not have quality comparative studies to discuss our results with. Similarly, although Krishna River and its tributaries are known for their rich ichthyofaunal diversity (Jadhav et al. 2011; Dahanukar et al. 2012; Kharat et al. 2012), we refrain from comparing our results with those from the upper reaches of Krishna River due to geographical distance and the presence of only common species at Udayasamudram Reservoir.

As the Reservoir is meant for the supply of drinking water to Nalgonda Township and surrounding villages,

Table 1. List of fish species recorded in Udayasamudram Reservoir, Nalgonda District, Telangana State, India.

	Order	Family	Scientific name	Common name	Abundance	IUCN status	Voucher No.
1	Cypriniformes	Cyprinidae	<i>Gibelion catla</i> (Hamilton 1822)	Catla	M	LC	NHM.OU.F-K-PV.01.2015
2			<i>Cirrhinus mrigala</i> (Hamilton, 1822)	Mrigal Carp	M	LC	NHM.OU.F-K-PV.02.2015
3			<i>Cirrhinus reba</i> (Hamilton, 1822)	Reba Carp	M	LC	NHM.OU.F-K-PV.03.2015
4			<i>Amblypharyngodon mola</i> (Hamilton, 1822)	Mola Carplet	A	LC	NHM.OU.F-K.13.2015
5			<i>Cyprinus carpio</i> Linnaeus, 1758*	Common Carp	R		NHM.OU.F-K-PV.05.2015
6			<i>Laubuka laubuca</i> (Hamilton, 1822)	Indian Glass Barb	M	LC	NHM.OU.F-K.16-2015
7			<i>Garra gotyla</i> (Jerdon, 1849)	Garra	M	LC	NHM.OU.F-K.20-2015
8			<i>Systomus subnasutus</i> (Valenciennes, 1842)	Olive Barb	M	LC	NHM.OU.F-K-PV. 06.2015
9			<i>Puntius sophore</i> (Hamilton, 1822)	Pool Barb	C	LC	NHM.OU.F-K.14-2015
10			<i>Pethia ticto</i> (Hamilton, 1822)	Ticto Barb	A	LC	NHM.OU.F-K-PV.07.2015
11			<i>Rasbora daniconius</i> (Hamilton, 1822)	Slender Rasbora	A	LC	NHM.OU.F-K-PV.08.2015
12			<i>Salmophasia balookee</i> (Sykes, 1839)	Bloch Razorbelly Minnow	A	LC	NHM.OU.F-K.15-2015
13			<i>Labeo rohita</i> (Hamilton, 1822)	Rohu	C	LC	NHM.OU.F-K-PV.09.2015
14			<i>Devario devario</i> (Hamilton, 1822)	Sind Danio	M	LC	NHM.OU.F-K-PV.10.2015
15	Siluriformes	Bagridae	<i>Mystus cavasius</i> (Hamilton, 1822)	Gangetic Mystus	C	LC	NHM.OU.F-K.17-2015
16			<i>Mystus bleekeri</i> (Day, 1877)	Day's Mystus	C	LC	NHM.OU.F-K.18-2015
17			<i>Mystus vittatus</i> (Bloch, 1794)	Striped Dwarf Catfish	C	LC	NHM.OU.F-K.19-2015
18			<i>Sperata seenghala</i> (Sykes, 1839)	Giant River-Catfish	C	LC	NHM.OU.F-K.07-2015
19		Siluridae	<i>Ompok bimaculatus</i> (Bloch, 1794)	Butter Catfish	R	NT	NHM.OU.F-K.04-2015
20			<i>Wallago attu</i> (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)	Wallago	R	NT	NHM.OU.F-K-PV.11.2015
21		Clariidae	<i>Clarias magur</i> (Hamilton, 1822)	Indian Catfish	R	LC	NHM.OU.F-K-PV.12.2015
22		Pangasiidae	<i>Pangasius pangasius</i> (Hamilton, 1822)	Batchwavacha	A	LC	NHM.OU.F-K-PV.13.2015
23		Heteropneustidae	<i>Heteropneustes fossilis</i> (Bloch, 1794)	Stinging Catfish	M	LC	NHM.OU.F-K.09-2015
24	Osteoglossiformes	Notopteridae	<i>Notopterus notopterus</i> (Pallas, 1769)	Bronze Featherback	A	LC	NHM.OU.F-K.06-2015
25	Perciformes	Channidae	<i>Channa marulius</i> (Hamilton, 1822)	Great/Giant Snakehead	M	LC	NHM.OU.F-K-PV.14.2015
26			<i>Channa punctata</i> (Bloch, 1793)	Spotted Snakehead	M	LC	NHM.OU.F-K-PV.15.2015
27			<i>Channa striata</i> (Bloch, 1793)	Striped Snakehead	C	LC	NHM.OU.F-K-PV.16.2015
28		Gobiidae	<i>Glossogobius giuris</i> (Hamilton, 1822)	Tank Goby	C	LC	NHM.OU.F-K.11-2015
29		Cichlidae	<i>Pseudotropheus maculatus</i> (Bloch, 1795)	Orange Chromide	R	LC	NHM.OU.F-K.10-2015
30			<i>Etroplus suratensis</i> (Bloch, 1790)	Green Chromide	C	LC	NHM.OU.F-K.02-2015
31			<i>Oreochromis mossambicus</i> (Peters, 1852)*	Mozambique Tilapia	A		NHM.OU.F-K.05-2015
32		Ambassidae	<i>Chanda nama</i> (Hamilton, 1822)	Elongate Glass-Perchlet	A	LC	NHM.OU.F-K.12-2015
33			<i>Parambassis ranga</i> (Hamilton, 1822)	Indian Glassy Fish	M	LC	NHM.OU.F-K-PV.18.2015

	Order	Family	Scientific name	Common name	Abundance	IUCN status	Voucher No.
34			<i>Parabassiss lala</i> (Hamilton, 1822)	Highfin Glassy Perchlet	C	NT	NHM.OU.F-K-PV.19.2015
35	Beloniformes	Belontiidae	<i>Xenentodon cancila</i> (Hamilton, 1822)	Freshwater Garfish	C	LC	NHM.OU.F-K.01-2015
36		Hemiramphidae	<i>Hyporhamphus limbatus</i> (Valenciennes, 1847)	Congaturi Halfbeak	A	LC	NHM.OU.F-K.08-2015
37	Synbranchiformes	Mastacembelidae	<i>Mastacembelus armatus</i> (Lacepède, 1800)	Zig-Zag Eel	C	LC	NHM.OU.F-K.03-2015
38	Anguilliformes	Anguillidae	<i>Anguilla bengalensis</i> (Gray, 1831)	Indian Mottled Eel	R	NT	NHM.OU.F-K-PV.20.2015

Abbreviations: A - Abundant; M - Moderate; C - Common; R - Rare; LC - Least Concern; NT - Near Threatened; DD - Data Deficient; NHM.OU.F-K - Natural History Museum Osmania University Fishes Krishna River System; NHM.OU.F-K-PV - Natural History Museum Osmania University Fishes Krishna River System Photo Voucher. * Exotic species

culture of fish through cooperative societies are not allowed. There is no aquaculture practiced either by the State Fisheries Department or other private parties. However, some farmed fish species find their way to the reservoir through inlet canals connected to other lakes and the Alimineti Madhav Reddy Left Bank Canal of the Krishna River. Local communities and the State Fisheries Department need to take into cognizance the negative impact of such exotic fishes, and should avoid introducing them in to natural waters. We have detected the presence of *Rhinomugil corsula* in one of the lakes near the reservoir.

The reservoir is dependent on the water from the tributaries of the River Krishna and inundation due to monsoon rains. The surrounding area of the reservoir is used for agricultural purposes. The fish fauna of the Udayasamudram Reservoir is relatively less threatened by human activities, even though the use of agricultural chemicals, such as fertilizers and pesticides, may affect the fish population through monsoonal runoff. Hence, there is a need to take conservation management steps to prevent pollutants, by regular water quality checks. A holistic approach targeting conservation awareness activities, pollution mitigation measures and monitoring active or passive introduction of exotic species into the reservoir will help in the long-term retention of the ichthyofaunal diversity.

Although no commercial fishing activity is allowed, subsistence fishing by locals as well as natural causes keeps the fish population under check. It is also imperative to educate the locals and policy makers about the importance of freshwater fishes, the negative impacts of pollution and agriculture run-off. Educating the local people will help not only in conserving the fish diversity but also provide employment and livelihood.

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Image 2. *Gibelion catla*



Image 3. *Cirrhinus mrigala*



Image 4. *Laubuka laubuca*



Image 5. *Amblypharyngodon mola*



Image 7. *Systomus subnasutus*



Image 6. *Cyprinus carpio*



Image 8. *Garra gotyla*



Image 9. *Pethia ticto*



Image 10. *Puntius sophore*



Image 11. *Hyporhamphus limbatus*



Image 12. *Rasbora daniconius*



Image 13. *Salmophasia balookee*



Image 14. *Labeo rohita*



Image 15. *Devario devario*



Image 16. *Mystus cavasius*



Image 17. *Sperata seenghala*



Image 18. *Mystus vittatus*



Image 19. *Wallago attu*



Image 20. *Ompok bimaculatus*



Image 21. *Pangasius pangasius*



Image 22. *Clarias magur*

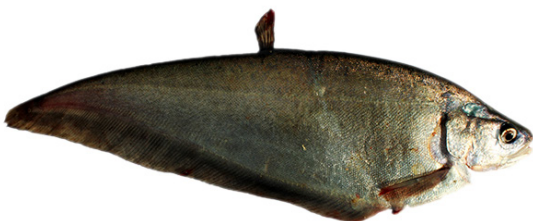


Image 23. *Notopterus notopterus*



Image 24. *Heteropneustes fossilis*



Image 25. *Channa punctata*



Image 26. *Channa marulius*



Image 27. *Glossogobius giuris*



Image 28. *Channa striata*



Image 29. *Etroplus suratensis*



Image 30. *Pseudetroplus maculatus*



Image 31. *Chanda nama*



Image 32. *Oreochromis mossambicus*

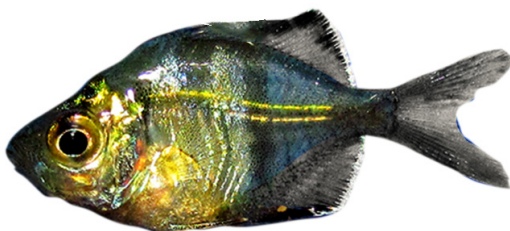


Image 33. *Parambassis lala*



Image 34. *Parambassis ranga*



Image 35. *Mastacembelus armatus*



Image 36. *Anguilla bengalensis*





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