

PATTERN OF DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, DIVERSITY AND THREATS TO FISH BIODIVERSITY OF THE CHAMBAL RIVER (UTTAR PRADESH)

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ABSTRACT: The present article describes diversity, distribution and abundance of fish communities of the river Chambal passing through Uttar Pradesh state, India. In totality, the river represented 43 fish species belonging to 32 genera and 14 families. The maximum number of species (25) was recorded in the slow water. An analysis of fish specimen revealed that Cyprinids were the most dominant among others groups represented by 9 genera and 14 species. The analysis also revealed five exotic species *Pangasius pangasius*, *Pangasius sutchi*, *Cyprinus carpio*, *Ctenopharyngodon idellus*, *Hypothalmicthys nobilis* and *Carrasius auratus*. The threatened assessment of the species as per IUCN red list criteria 2014 enumerated that 4 species belong to near threatened and 33 to least concern category. 7 species were assessed under not evaluated category. Moreover, 0.51% abundance of exotic species was found threatened in other areas. The abundance of fish communities in the upstream and downstream segments of the river was found significantly correlated ($p < 0.0001$). The catch per unit effort of the experimental fishing was found higher in the post monsoon (1.6) than pre monsoon season (1.3). Moreover, the economic importance assessment of fishes indicated that the river is inhabitant of food, game, ornamental and medicinal value fishes.

Key words: *Biodiversity, conservation, river Chambal, threats, Uttar Pradesh*

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