

A CHECK LIST OF FISH FAUNA OF NARSINGHPUR DISTRICT OF MADHYA PRADESH

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Narsinghpur district is situated in Madhya Pradesh from the parallel of latitude 22° 45' to 23° 15' N and 78° 38' to 79° 38' E. The district encompasses a total area of 525.55 sq. Km which is 1.16% of the total geographical area of Mathya Pradesh. Climate of the district is hot and damp to dry. River Narmada is with its tributaries, the Sher, Shakkar, Dudhi, Samer Barurewa, Hiran and Sindore forms the chief drainage system in the district. Narmada River runs about 128.74 km of its course in the district flowing on a narrow basaltic bed lined with high precipitous and eroded banks. Most of the tributaries are join Narmada from the south whereas Hiran and the Sindor join at the east and west part of the district. Shakkar with its tributary Sitarewa and Sher with its tributary Machatrewa originates from Satpura, have deep rocky beds fringes with ravenous terrain, broken at places with alluvial deposits. In contrast Dudhi and Barurewa originate from Satpura have sandy beds. Samer is a mountain torsent like the Sher and Sakkar and forms the eastern boundary of the District. The study of fish diversity of the Narsinghpur district is important from the

geographical point of view. Main water sources of Narsinghpur district were studied for its fish diversity during 2006-2008.

The fishes were collected from from different sites of the Narsinghpur district. Observations were also made in local fish markets of different areas of the district and samples were collected from the markets, and analysed in the laboratory. The samples were identified with the available literature and from the museum of Zoological Survey of India, Jabalpur. The list of identified fishes is given in Table 1. A total of 64 fish species were identified out of which 29 species were common to this area and 24 species were identified as edible species which are observed in different markets of the district. During the study, it was observed that the district is rich in diversity of fishes. The statistical analysis of the fish fauna is given in Fig 1. The fish fauna of Madhya Pradesh has been studied by earlier workers (Chandra and Sharma, 2007, Saxena, 1988, Dubey and Verma, 1965, Ojha and Thilak, 2008, Sen, 1995a and 1995b, Thilak and Ojha, 2008 and Tilak and Sinha, 1979).