

# Diversity of Freshwater Fishes of Maharashtra, India - A Review Article

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**Abstract:** Diversity increases the productivity of ecosystem and essential for balancing ecosystem. The ecological diversity of aquatic ecosystem is affected by different environmental conditions and anthropogenic activities. Study of diversity is very important to keep records and conserve them. Fishes are important animal in the freshwater ecosystems due to their ecological significance. Conservation of freshwater fish is equally important as source of food, position in food chain and conservation practice is only possible when diversity of freshwater fishes is known. Present investigation was undertaken to study the diversity of fish fauna from Maharashtra. As far as economic importance is concerned, the scope of fish and fisheries is of prime interest. The current review deals with the freshwater fish recorded and confirmed by various authors, 216 species belonging to 11 orders, 32 families and 93 genera in Maharashtra and it will be useful for consumer, fish industry, fisherman and researchers

**Keywords:** Freshwater, Fish, Diversity, Maharashtra

## I. INTRODUCTION

Diversity is essential to stabilise the ecosystem and environmental quality for understanding species the earth. Diversity of fish in river essentially represents their abundance. Fish are rich source of carbohydrate, protein, fat, and vitamins. The nutritive and medicinal value of fish has been recognized from ancient time to recent era (Pawara R. H. et, al.2014). Around the world approximately 22,000 species of fishes have been recorded out of which 11 % are found in India i.e. about 2500 species of fishes of which, 930 live in freshwater and 1,570 are marine (Kar 2003, Ubharhande et al. 2011). Fishes are an important ecological link in the food chain, feeding on insects and serving as prey for other fishes, birds, and other wildlife. They also are important indicators of water quality and ecosystem health (Totawar D. V. et.al 2018). Freshwater fishes comprise almost 45% of all fishes. An estimated 15,000 fish is depends on freshwater habitats (Patil R. B. et, al.2018).

The aquatic ecosystem is an important and having large number of economically important animals specially fish which is important source of food. Anthropogenic activity has drastically damaged the natural habitat of all the living beings. Fresh water resources are used for various purposes, like agricultural, industrial, household, recreational, environmental activities etc. Though river water is used for agriculture, fisheries, residential and industrial developments, mining activity, navigation, power generation and variety of other activities including sand digging and disposal of industrial and domestic wastes, but still, some natural breeding does exist in the nature. Several authors showed Western Ghat of India as a rich freshwater fish fauna with a high level of endemism (Kharate, et al.2012).

Maharashtra is one of the important states for fish production and natural water resources. Fish Diversity is declining rapidly due to unending anthropogenic stress. Thus there is an urgent need for proper investigation and documentation of fresh water fish Diversity information system having both bioinformatics and georeferenced databases of fish and fish habitat. In the present review documentation of freshwater fish fauna in the Maharashtra state for 2000 to 2021 is done.

**II. SYSTEMATIC LIST OF FISHES**

**Class : PISCES**

**Division : TELEOSTEI**

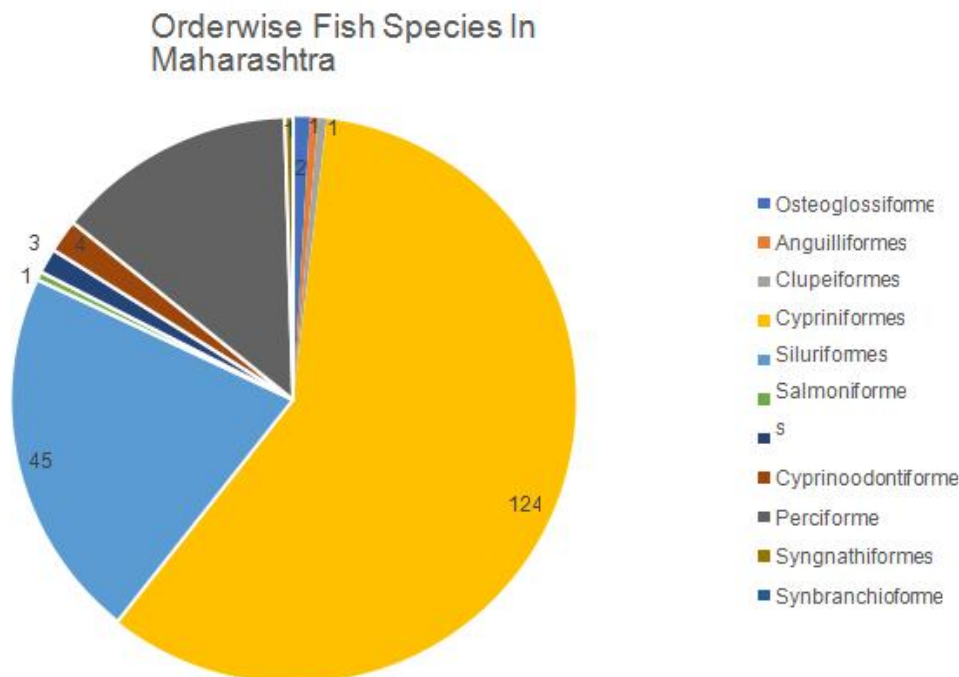
ORDER	FAMILY	GENUS SPECIES
<b>OSTEOGLOSSIFORMES</b>	<b>NOTOPTERIDAE</b>	1. Chitala chitala (Ham-Buch) 2. Notopterus notopterus (Pallas)
<b>ANGUILLIFORMES</b>	<b>ANGUILLIDAE</b>	3. Anguilla bengalensis bengalensis
<b>CLUPEIFORMES</b>	<b>CLUPEIDAE</b>	4. Goniolosa manmina (Ham- Buch)
<b>CYPRINIFORMES</b>	<b>CYPRINIDAE</b>	Subfamily CYPRININAE 5. Carassius auratus (Linnaeus) 6. Catla catla (Ham-Buch) 7. Cirrhinus cirrhosus (Bloch) 8. C fulungee (Sykes) 9. C. mrigala (Ham-Buch) 10. C. reba (Ham-Buch) 11. Crossocheilus latius latius (Ham-Buch) 12. Ctenopharyngodon idellus (Valenciennes) 13. Cyprinus carpio var. communis Linnaeus 14. H. kolus (Sykes) 15. H. thomassi (Day) 16. Labeo ariza (Ham-Buch) 17. L. bata (Ham-Buch) 18. L. boga (Ham-Buch) 19. L. boggut (Sykes) 20. L. calbasu (Ham-Buch) 21. L. dussumieri (Valenciennes) 22. L. fimbriatus (Bloch) 23. L. gonius (Ham-Buch) 24. L. kawrus (Sykes) 25. L. nigrescens (Day) 26. L. pangusia (Ham-Buch) 27. L. porcellus (Heckel) 28. L. potail (Sykes) 29. L. rohita (Ham-Buch) 30. L. sindensis (Day) 31. Neolissocheilus hexagonolepis (McClelland) 32. Oreichthys cosuatus (Ham- Buch) 33. Osteobrama bakeri (Day) 34. O. bhimensis Singh & Yazdani 35. O. cotio cotio (Ham-Buch) 36. O. cotio peninsularis Silas 37. O. dayi (Hara & Misra) 38. O. neilli (Day) 39. O. vigharsi (Sykes) 40. Osteocheilichthys godavariensis (Rao) 41. O. nashii (Day) 42. O. thomassi (Day) 43. Puntius amphibius (Valenciennes)

		<p>44. <i>P. arenatus</i> Day</p> <p>45. <i>P. carnaticus</i> (Jerdon)</p> <p>46. <i>P. chola</i> (Ham-Buch)</p> <p>47. <i>P. conchoni</i> (Ham-Buch)</p> <p>48. <i>P. deccanensis</i> Yazdani &amp; Babu Rao</p> <p>49. <i>P. dorsalis</i> (Jerdon)</p> <p>50. <i>P. fasciatus</i> (Day)</p> <p>51. <i>P. filamentosus</i> (Valenciennes)</p> <p>52. <i>P. fraseri</i> (Hara &amp; Misra)</p> <p>53. <i>P. gelius</i> (Ham-Buch)</p> <p>54. <i>P. jerdoni</i> (Day)</p> <p>55. <i>P. melanostigma</i> (Day)</p> <p>56. <i>P. narayani</i> Hora</p> <p>57. <i>P. parrah</i> (Day)</p> <p>58. <i>P. sahyadriensis</i> Silas</p> <p>59. <i>P. sarana sarana</i> (Ham- Buch)</p> <p>60. <i>P. sarana subnasutus</i> (Valenciennes)</p> <p>61. <i>P. sophore</i> (Ham-Buch)</p> <p>62. <i>P. ticto</i> (Ham-Buch)</p> <p>63. <i>P. vittatus</i> Day*</p> <p>64. <i>Rohtee ogilbii</i> Sykes</p> <p>65. <i>Schismatorhynchus</i> (Nukta) nukta (Sykes)</p> <p>66. <i>Tor khudree</i> (Sykes)</p> <p>67. <i>T. kulkarni</i> Menon</p> <p>68. <i>T. mussullah</i> (Sykes)</p> <p>69. <i>T. tor</i> (Ham-Buch)</p> <p>70. <i>Thynnichthys sandkhal</i> (Sykes)</p> <p><u>Subfamily CULTRINAE</u></p> <p>71. <i>Chela cachi</i> (Ham-Buch)</p> <p>72. <i>C. dadidurjori</i> (Menon)</p> <p>73. <i>C. laubuca</i> (Ham-Buch)</p> <p>74. <i>Salmostoma acinaces</i> (Valenciennes) 250 Fauna of Maharashtra, State Fauna Series, 20</p> <p>75. <i>S. bacaila</i> (Ham-Buch)</p> <p>76. <i>S. boopis</i> (Day)</p> <p>77. <i>S. clupeoides</i> (Bloch)</p> <p>78. <i>S. Horai</i> (Siras)</p> <p>79. <i>S. longicaudata</i> Srithar &amp; Jayaram</p> <p>80. <i>S. novacula</i> (Valenciennes)</p> <p>81. <i>S. phulo phulo</i> (Ham-Buch)</p> <p>82. <i>S. sardinella</i> (Valenciennes)</p> <p>83. <i>S. untrachi</i> (Day)</p> <p><u>Subfamily LEUCISCINAE</u></p> <p>84. <i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i> (Valenciennes)</p> <p>85. <i>H. nobilis</i></p> <p>(Richardson) <u>Subfamily RASBORINAE</u></p> <p>86. <i>Amblypharyngodon mola</i> (Ham-Buch)</p> <p>87. <i>Aspidoparia morar</i> (Ham-Buch)</p> <p>88. <i>Barilius bakeri</i> Day</p>
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		89. B. barila (Ham-Buch)* 90. B. barna (Ham-Buch) 91. B. bendelisis (Ham-Buch) 92. B. evezardi Day 93. B. gatensis (Valenciennes) 94. B. vagra (Ham-Buch)* 95. Brachydanio rerio (Ham- Buch) 96. Danio aequipinnatus (McClelland) 97. D. devario (Ham-Buch) 98. D. fraseri Hora & Mukherjee 99. D. malabaricus (Jerdon) 100. Esomus danricus (Ham- Buch) 101. ParLuciosoma daniconius (Ham-Buch) 102. P. labiosa Mukherjee 103. R. rasbora (Ham-Buch) <u>Subfamily GARRINAE</u> 104. Garra bicornuta Rao 105. G. gotyla gotyla (Gray) 106. G. gotyla stenorhynchus (Jerdon) 107. G. maclellandi (Jerdon)* 108. G. mullya (Sykes) 109. G. notata (Blyth)
	<b>PARAPSILORHYNCHIDAE</b>	110. Parapsilorhynchus discophorus 111. P. elongatus Singh 112. P. prateri Hora & Misra 113. P. tentaculatus (Annandale)
	<b>BALITORIDAE</b>	114. Acanthocobitis botia (Ham- Buch) 115. A. moorei (Sykes) 116. B. mysorensis Hora
		117. Nemacheilus anguilla Annandale 118. N. denisoni denisoni (Day) 119. N. denisoni dayi Hora . 120. N. evezardi (Day) 121. N. multifasciatus Day* 122. N. rupecola (McClelland) 123. N. ruppelli (Sykes) 124. N. savona (Ham-Buch) 125. N. striatus Day*
	<b>COBITIDAE</b>	126. Lepidocephalus guntea (Ham-Buch) 127. L. thermalis (Valenciennes) 128. Botia striata Rao
	<b>BAGRIDAE</b>	129. Mystus bleekeri (Day) 130. M. cavasius (Ham-Buch) 131. M. gulio (Ham-Buch) 132. M. keletius (Valenciennes) 133. M. malabaricus (Jerdon) 134. M. menoda (Ham-Buch) 135. M. montanus (Jerdon)

		136. <i>M. oculatus</i> (Valenciennes) 137. <i>M. vittatus</i> (Bloch) 138. <i>Hemibagrus maydelli</i> (Rossel) 139. <i>R. gogra</i> (Sykes) 140. <i>R. kuturnee</i> (Sykes) 141. <i>R. rita</i> (Ham-Buch) 142. <i>Sperata aor</i> (Ham-Buch) 143. <i>S. seenghala</i> (Sykes)
	SILURIDAE	144. <i>Ompok bimaculatus</i> (Bloch) 145. <i>O. malabaricus</i> (Valenciennes) 146. <i>O. pabo</i> (Ham-Buch) 147. <i>Pterocryptis wynaadensis</i> (Day). 148. <i>Wallago attu</i> (Schneider)
	SCHILBEIDAE	149. <i>Ailia coila</i> (Ham-Buch) 150. <i>Clupisoma bastari</i> Datta & Karmakar* 151. <i>C. garua</i> (Ham-Buch) 152. <i>C. taakree taakree</i> (Sykes) 153. <i>Eutropiichthys vacha</i> (Ham-Buch) 154. <i>E. goongwaree</i> (Sykes) 155. <i>Neotropius atherinoides</i> (Bloch) 156. <i>N. khavalchor</i> Kulkarni 157. <i>Silonia childreni</i> (Sykes)
		158. <i>S. silondia</i>
	PANGASIIDAE	159. <i>Pangasius pangasius</i>
	SISORIDAE	160. <i>Bagarius bagarius</i> 161. <i>B. yarrelli</i> Silas 162. <i>Gagata gagata</i> 163. <i>G. itchkeea</i> (Sykes) 164. <i>Nangra nangra</i> 165. <i>N. viridescens</i> 166. <i>Glyptothorax annandalei</i> Hora 167. <i>G. conirostrae poonaensis</i> Hora 168. <i>G. lonah</i> (Sykes) 169. <i>G. madraspatnam</i> (Day) 170. <i>G. trewavasae</i> Hora
	CLARIIDAE	171. <i>Clarias batrachus</i> 172. <i>C. dussumieri dussumieri</i>
	HETEROPNEUSTIDAE	173. <i>Heteropneustes fossilis</i>
	SALMONIDAE	174. <i>Salmo gairdnerii gairdnerii</i>
	ADRIANICHTHYIDAE	175. <i>Horaichthys setnai</i>
	BELONIDAE	176. <i>Xenentodon cancila</i>
	HEMIRAMPHIDAE	177. <i>Hyporhamphus limbatus</i>
	APLOCHEILIDAE	178. <i>Aplocheilus lineatus</i> 179. <i>A. panchax</i>
	POECILIDAE	180. <i>Gambusia affinis</i> 181. <i>Poecilia</i>
	CENTROPOMIDAE	182. <i>Lates calcarifer</i>
	AMBASSIDAE	183. <i>Chanda nama</i>

		184. Pseudambassis baculis 185. P. ranga
	SCATOPHAGIDAE	186. Scatophagus argus
	NANDIDAE	187. Badis badis 188. Nandus nandus 189. Pristolepis marginata Jerdon
	CICHLIDAE	190. Etroplus maculatus 191. Etroplus suratensis 192. Oreochromis mossambica 193. O. niloticus
	GOBIIDAE	194. Glossogobius giuris 195. Stigmatogobius javanicus 196. Pseudogobiopsis oligactis
	ANABANTIDAE	197. A. cobojius 198. Anabas testudineus
	BELONTIDAE	199. Colisa fasciatus
		200. Macropodus cupanus
	OSPHRONEMIDAE	201. Osphronemus goramy Lacepede
	MUGILIDAE	202. Liza parsia 203. L. tade 204. Mugil cephalus Linnaeus 205. Rhinomugil corsula
	CHANNIDAE	206. Channa marulius 207. C. orientalis 208. C. punctatus 209. C. stewartii 210. C. striata
SYNGNATHIFORMES	SYGNATHIDAE	211. Microphis cuncalus
SYNBRANCHIFORMES	SYNBRANCHIDAE	212. Monopterus indicus
	MASTACEMBELIDAE	213. Mastacembelus armatus (Lacepede) 214. Macrognathus aral 215. M. guentheri (Day) 216. M. pancalus



### III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A total of 216 fish species have been recorded and confirmed by various authors in Maharashtra, belonging to 11 orders, 32 families and 93 genera. There is a rich Diversity of fish in Maharashtra which suggests that a major part is the threatened by human activities. Fish fauna and distribution is useful for designing and implementing conservation strategies, to make fishermen aware of fishing, to give scientific training, to provide facilities to the fish farmers and to avoid immature fishing as well as providing subsidies on loan may help in high yield.

Among the fishes recorded from Maharashtra, Order cypriniformes is the largest order with 121 species followed by Siluriformes with 45 species and perciformes with 29 species. The Ichthyofauna consists mainly of food fishes, game fishes and ornamental fishes. The Godavari and Krishna river systems offer good number of localities from where 46 species have originally been described (Jayaram 1995) and 12 species are found to be Endemic to Maharashtra State. The rich ichthyofauna of Maharashtra seems to be reducing in number as many fish species like *Osteocheilichthys godavariensis* (Rao), *Puntius deccanensis* Yazdani and Rao, *Tor kulkarni* Menon, could not be collected from their type localities and elsewhere. The reason for this is human interference, destruction of habits, over exploitation. Hence, some conservation steps is to be taken to protect the ichthyofauna, like, regulation of mesh size, construction of fish ladder, ban on mass killing etc. Keeping vigilant check on fishing and restoration of habitats are also essential steps. Moreover, public awareness programmes are also very fruitful measures for conservation of ichthyofauna. Pawara and Patel (2012) have recorded 25 fish species belonging to 03 orders, 05 families and 13 genera. Among the collected species, family Cyprinidae was the most dominant constituting 68% followed by family Channidae constituting 12%, family Balitoridae constituting 08%, family Bagridae constituting 08% and family Cobitidae constituting 04% of the total fish species from the Karvand dam (Shirpur). Shaikh et al., 2011 observed 27 fish species belong to 7 orders 15 genera and 9 families from upper Dudhna project water reservoir near Somthana at Jalna. Gaikwad et al., 2021 investigated the occurrence of 7 fish species belonging to 2 orders and 2 families in Girja River in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra. The fishes belonging to order Cypriniformes were dominated by 05 species followed by order Perciformes with 02 species. Jadhav et al., 2011 have recorded 58 fish species belonging to 16 families and 35 genera. Of the total 58 species, 8 were abundant, 21 common, 19 moderate and 10 rare in the study area. Bhalerao, 2012 reported major carps and exotic carps in the Kasar Sai Dam 15 fish species belonging to 3 orders, 4 families and 12



genera. Shinde et al., 2009a have recorded the order Cypriniformes found to be dominant with 11 species, followed by Perciformes 3 species and Siluriformes with 1 species from the Harsool-Savangi dam (Aurangabad). Hypothalmichthys molitrix and Puntius ticto were found in abundance. Joshi et al., 2012 recorded a total of 20 fish species of Buldhana District belonging to 7 families. These families are; cyprinidae (10 species), Notopteridae (01 species), Cobitidae (01 species), Siluridae (01 species), Saccobranchidae (01 species), Clariidae (01 species), Ophiocephalidae (04 species), and Mastocembelidae (02 species). Kokate et al., (2017) recorded 25 finfishes of sangli region of Krishna River. The species belonging to 11 families and 21 Genera were grouped into five groups Namely IMC, Minor carps, Weed fishes, Catfishes and exotic fishes. Katwate et al. (2012) collected 66 fish species belonging to 31 families and 53 genera from northern Western Ghats at Raigad. Cyprinids were the most dominant group represented by 22 fish species belonging to 13 genera followed by the loaches, croakers and gobies belonging to the family Balitoridae, Sciaenidae and Gobiidae respectively (three species from each family). Bobdey (2014) collected 63 species of 8 orders and 17 families from Bhandara. Heda (2009) identified 47 fish species from two rivers of Godavari basin. Jaiswal and Ahirrao (2012) have observed 28 fish species in Rangavali Dam (Navapur). Among 28 fish species, 25 genera and 12 families were grouped under seven orders. Pawar et al., 2003 noticed 11 fish species belonging to 5 orders from Sirur dam of Nanded District. Khedkar, 2005 observed 67 fish species belonging to 7 orders and 19 families from Nathasagar reservoir from Paithan, Dist. Aurangabad. Sonawane et al., 2017 investigated 32 fish specimens belonging to 6 orders 11 family, 16 Genera and 20 species. The order Cypriniformes was dominant with 07 (35%) species followed by order Siluriformes with 6 species (30%), order Perciformes 04 (20%) species, while the order Osteoglossiformes, Clupeiformes and Synbranchiformes was represented by single species respectively. Supugade et al., 2009 recorded 20 species from 13 genera and 7 families included in 4 orders from Ghogaon reservoir of Satara district. Sarwade and Khillare (2010) reported the variety and abundance of fresh water fish from Indapur Dist. Pune. In this investigation the occurrence of 60 fish species belonging to 6 orders, 15 families and 36 genera were noted. The members of order Cypriniformes were the most dominant constituting 66.66%, Perciformes constituting 11.66%, Siluriformes constituting 10%, Beloniformes constituting 8.33%, Osteoglossiformes constituting 3.33% and Synbranchiformes constituting 1.66% of the total fish species. Ahirrao (2014) reported an account of fish resources of 39 fish species belonging to 24 genera and 12 families. ISSN: 0975-8585 November - December 2014 RJPBCS 5(6) Page No. 489 from Bori dam at Tamaswadi, Parola, Dist. Jalgaon Sakhare (2001) investigated the occurrence of 23 fish species belonging to 7 orders in Jawalgaon reservoir in Solapur district of Maharashtra. The fishes belonging to order Cypriniformes were dominant with 11 species followed by order Siluriformes with 4 species, while orders like Osteoglossiformes, Perciformes and Channiformes were represented by 2 species and the rest of the orders by single species. Ubarhande et al., 2011 reported that ichthyofauna of Ambadi dam belonged to 08 orders 11 families, 22 genera and 27 species where Cyprinidae family was found to be dominant with 13 species which constituted 48.16% besides family Balitoridae, Bagridae, Channidae and Mestacembelidae contributed 02 species each with 7.41% and family Clariidae, Cichlidae, Notopteridae, Belonidae and Mugilidae contributed 01 species each with 3.70%. Shelke et al., (2018) recorded total of 35 fish species belongs to 08 orders, 27 genera of 17 families. Order Cypriniformes was most dominant group represented by 20 (57.14) species followed by orders Perciformes with 06 (17.14) species. Siluriformes with 03 (8.57) species, Synbranchiformes 02 (5.71) species, Beloniformes 01 (2.85) species, Synodontidae 01 (2.85) species, Scorpaeniformes 01 (2.85) species and Osteoglossiformes 01 (2.85) species. Out of 35 fish species 29 have least concern status, 01 are near threatened, 02 are Vulnerable, 02 are not evaluated and one is data deficient. Shinde et al., 2009b investigated the occurrence of 41 fish species belonging to 7 orders, 14 families and 26 genera of pravara River at Pravara Sangam District Ahamadnagar. Among the collected species, order Cypriniformes was the most dominant constituting 50% followed by order Siluriformes constituting 19%, order Perciformes constituting 14.28%, orders Osteoglossiformes and Synbranchiformes constituting 4.76% and orders Mugiliformes and Beloniformes constituting 2.38% of the total fish species. Kale et al., (2018) investigated the occurrence of 11 fish species belonging to 5 orders, 6 families and 9 genera of Lonimawla Reservoir Ahamadnagar district Maharashtra. Among 11 fish species order Cypriniformes dominated by 6 species followed by order Perciformes with 2 species and orders Clupeiformes, Mastacembeliformes, and Siluriformes with one species each. Kadam et al., (2020) In the present study total of 17 fish species belongs to 8 families and 5 orders were investigated. Keshave et al. (2013) recorded commercially important 9 fish species belonging to 6 families from Isapur Reservoir. Humbe et al.,



2014 showed occurrence of 32 fish species belonging to 18 genera, 8 families and 6 orders from Sina Kolegoan Dam, Dist. Osmanabad. Order Cypriniformes was dominant in dam with 20 species followed by order Siluriformes with 5 species, Channiformes with 6 species and Clupeiformes with 2 species and rest the order Mastacembeliformes and Perciformes by single species. Kalbande et al., 2007 noticed 29 fish species from Rawanwadi Lake in Bhandara district. Pawar (2014) has reported 42 fish species belonging to 29 genera, 15 families and 9 orders from Majalgaon reservoir from Beed district. Rankhamb (2011) investigation revealed the occurrence of 26 fish species belonging to 05 orders, 07 families and 15 genera from Godavari River at Mudgal, Pathri, Dist. Parbhani. Pawara R. et al., (2014) the freshwater fish recorded and confirmed by various authors, 165 species belonging to 09 orders, 26 families and 82 genera in Maharashtra for the period of 2000 to 2014. Paliwal et al. (2013) studied fisheries and its conservation in Itiadoh dam reservoir Dist. Gondia and recorded 35 fish species belonging to 6 orders and 16 families. Joshi, et al. (2012) recorded 20 species belonging to 7 families from Purna River at Buldhana District. Kharat, et al., 2012 recorded 51 species belonging to 14 families and 33 genera out of 15 fish species were endemic from Krishna River at Wai, Northern Western Ghats, India. Sheikh (2014) reported 37 species belonging to 21 different genera, in 11 families and 08 orders. f order cypriniformes were dominated by 18 species followed by siluriformes with 08 species, perciformes 03, mastacembeliformes 03, channiformes 02, Atheriniformes 01, Anguilliformes 01. Kumbar and Lad (2014) recorded 13 species of catfish belonging to 5 families and 10 genera. The Bagridae family was dominant with six species, whereas Siluridae, Schilbidae and Clariidae had two species each and Sisoridae with one species. Rathod S. R. (2011) investigated the occurrence of 53 fish species belonging to 9 orders, 21 families and 37 genera. Yazdani and Singh (2002) further, gave an account of 54 species under 32 genera and 15 families from Ujani wetland. Ubharhande and Sonawane (2012) observed 21 fish species belongs to 07 orders 10 families, 19 genera and 21 species. Cyprinidae family is dominant with 10 (47.61%) species, Channidae and Mastacembelidae with 02 (9.52%) species, Balitoridae, Bagridae, Clariidae, Belonidae, Notopteridae, Cichlidae, and Poeciliidae contribute 01 (4.76%) species each from Paintakli dam at Buldhana district. Wagh and Ghate (2003) noticed 62 species from Mula and Mutha River in Pune. Yadav (2005A & B) reported 96 species under 52 genera and 19 families from Melghat Tiger Reserve and 33 species under 22 genera and 12 families from Nathasagar Wetland.

The aim of review was to assess the variety and abundance of the important fish fauna inhabiting fresh water of Maharashtra.

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