

ON THE FISH FAUNA OF DISTRICT FAIZABAD,  
UTTAR PRADESH

*By*

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INTRODUCTION

Faizabad is one of the districts in the eastern belt of Uttar Pradesh and is bordered by Gonda and Basti districts on the north, Azamgarh on the east, Sultanpur on the south and Barabanki on the west. The district is mainly traversed by the Ghaghara and Tons rivers. The Tons is a seasonal river with a few tributaries such as Marha or Tamsa nadi, Bisuhi nadi, Tori nadi, Pikia nadi etc. Apart from these waterways there are a few lakes in the eastern part of the district such as Deohat, Garha, Hanswar, Doman etc. The Ghaghara river and the lakes form an important source of fish in the district.

The fish fauna of the eastern part of Uttar Pradesh has been reported upon by Day (1878), Hora (1922, 1949), Swarup (1967), and Srivastava (1968, 1980) which concern Gorakhpur, Ghazipur, Mirzapur, Gonda, Basti and Deoria districts. The fish fauna of Faizabad, although an adjoining district to those named above, is not known and, therefore, a list of fishes of this area is given. The list is based on the local catches by the fishermen during summer months.

For smaller species, the commonly used gear in the area is *Jhugri jal*—a kind of cast net. It is generally 3 to 4 metres in length with 15 mm mesh size.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF THE SPECIES AND THEIR LOCAL NAMES

- Order : Clupeiformes  
Suborder : Clupeoidei  
Family : CLUPEIDAE
1. *Gudusia chapra* (Hamilton) ... Khera
- Family : ENGRAULIDAE
2. *Setipinna phasa* (Hamilton) ... Phasia

Order : Osteoglossiformes

Suborder : Notopteroidei

Family : NOTOPTERIDAE

- |    |                                       |     |               |
|----|---------------------------------------|-----|---------------|
| 3. | <i>Notopterus chitala</i> (Hamilton)  | ... | Moi           |
| 4. | <i>Notopterus notopterus</i> (Pallas) | ... | Patra, Dhoota |

Order : Cypriniformes

Suborder : Cyprinoidei

Family : CYPRINIDAE

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|-----|---|-----|------------------|
| 5.  | <i>Chela (Chela) cachiua</i> (Hamilton)         | ... | Dhabai,<br>Jurwa |
| 6.  | <i>Chela (Chela) laubuca</i> (Hamilton)         | ... | Dendula          |
| 7.  | <i>Salmostoma bacaila</i> (Hamilton)            | ... | Chilwa           |
| 8.  | <i>Esomus danricus</i> (Hamilton)               | ... | Deola            |
| 9.  | <i>Rasbora daniconius daniconius</i> (Hamilton) | ... | Deola            |
| 10. | <i>Amblypharyngodon mola</i> (Hamilton)         | ... | Mola, Dhoi       |
| 11. | <i>Catla catla</i> (Hamilton)                   | ... | Bhakur,<br>Katla |
| 12. | <i>Cirrhinus mrigala</i> (Hamilton)             | ... | Nain             |
| 13. | <i>Cirrhinus reba</i> (Hamilton)                | ... | Rayya            |
| 14. | <i>Labeo calbasu</i> (Hamilton)                 | ... | Karocho          |
| 15. | <i>Labeo gonius</i> (Hamilton)                  | ... | Phursa           |
| 16. | <i>Labeo rohita</i> (Hamilton)                  | ... | Rohu             |
| 17. | <i>Osteobrama cotio cotio</i> (Hamilton)        | ... | Gurdi            |
| 18. | <i>Puntius chola</i> Hamilton                   | ... | Seri             |
| 19. | <i>Puntius conchoniua</i> Hamilton              | ... | Puthi            |
| 20. | <i>Puntius sarana sarana</i> Hamilton           | ... | Darahi-puthi     |
| 21. | <i>Puntius sophore</i> Hamilton                 | ... | Puthi            |
| 22. | <i>Puntius ticto</i> Hamilton                   | ... | Puthi            |

Family : COBITIDAE

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|-----|--------------------------------------|-----|-------|
| 23. | <i>Botia lohachata</i> Chaudhuri     | ... | Bagh  |
| 24. | <i>Noemacheilus botia</i> (Hamilton) | ... | Nakti |

- Order : Siluriformes  
Family : BAGRIDAE
25. *Aorichthys seenghala* (Sykes) ... Tengan  
26. *Mystus bleekeri* (Day) ... Dhamsa  
27. *Mystus cavasius* (Hamilton) ... Tengna  
28. *Mystus menoda* (Hamilton) ... Belonda  
29. *Mystus vittatus* (Bloch) ... Tengna  
30. *Pseudeutropius atherinoides* (Bloch) ... Bajhai  
31. *Rita rita* (Hamilton) ... Belgara
- Family : SILURIDAE
32. *Ompok bimaculatus* (Bloch) ... Gulwa  
33. *Wallago attu* (Schneider) ... Parhin
- Family : SCHILBEIDAE
34. *Ailia coila* (Hamilton) ... Imirti  
35. *Clupisoma garua* (Hamilton) ... Baikara  
36. *Eutropiichthys vacha* (Hamilton) ... Charkhi
- Family : PANGASIIDAE
37. *Pangasius pangasius* (Hamilton) ... Pyasi
- Family : SISORIDAE
38. *Bagarius bagarius* (Hamilton) ... Gonch
- Family : CLARIIDAE
39. *Clarias batrachus* (Linnaeus) ... Magur
- Family : HETEROPNEUSTIDAE
40. *Heteropneustes fossilis* (Bloch) ... Singhi
- Order : Atheriniformes  
Suborder : Exocoetoidei  
Family : Belonidae
41. *Xenentodon cancila* (Hamilton) ... Sua, Kawa
- Order : Channiformes  
Family : CHANNIDAE
42. *Channa marulius* (Hamilton) ... Saur  
43. *Channa punctatus* (Bloch) ... Girahi  
44. *Channa striatus* (Bloch) ... Saur

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|-----|-------------------------------|-------------|------------------|---------|--|
|     | Order                         | :           | Perciformes      |         |  |
|     | Suborder                      | :           | Percoidei        |         |  |
|     | Family                        | :           | CENTROPOMIDAE    |         |  |
| 45. | <i>Chanda nama</i>            | Hamilton    | ...              | Chandri |  |
| 46. | <i>Chanda ranga</i>           | Hamilton    | ...              | Chandra |  |
|     | Family                        | :           | NANDIDAE         |         |  |
| 47. | <i>Nandus nandus</i>          | (Hamilton)  | ...              | Dhebri  |  |
|     | Suborder                      | :           | Gobioidei        |         |  |
|     | Family                        | :           | GOBIIDAE         |         |  |
| 48. | <i>Glossogobius qutum</i>     | (Hamilton)  | ...              | Puri    |  |
|     | Suborder                      | :           | Anabantoidei     |         |  |
|     | Family                        | :           | ANABANTIDAE      |         |  |
| 49. | <i>Anabas testudineus</i>     | Bloch       | ...              | Koi     |  |
| 50. | <i>Colisa fasciatus</i>       | (Schneider) | ...              | Koi     |  |
|     | Suborder                      | :           | Mastacembeloidei |         |  |
|     | Family                        | :           | MASTACEMBELIDAE  |         |  |
| 51. | <i>Mastacembelus armatus</i>  | Lacépède    | ...              | Bam     |  |
| 52. | <i>Mastacembelus pancalus</i> | (Hamilton)  | ...              |         |  |

Commercially important fishes of the district help the local fisherman community to earn their livelihood. The catch of fish from the rivers, lakes and ponds is brought to the fish markets and *haats*. The commercially important fishes which are given preference are *Catla catla*, *Labeo rohita*, *L. calbasu*, *Aorichthys seenghala*, *Rita rita*, *Bagarius bagarius*, *Eutropiichthys vacha*, *Clupisoma garua*, *Wallago attu*, *Pangasius pangasius*, *Clarias batrachus*, *Heteropneustes fossilis*, *Channa marulius*, *C. punctatus*, *C. striatus*, *Notopterus chitala*, *N. notopterus* etc.

#### SUMMARY

This paper deals with the fish fauna of Faizabad district (Eastern Uttar Pradesh). 52 species belonging to 36 genera, 19 families and 7 orders have been recorded from the district and the local names of the species are given.

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