

## Fish fauna of Surha Tal of District-Ballia (U.P.), India

K.C. Pandey, Nirupma Agrawal\* and Rajnish Kumar Sharma

Department of Zoology, University of Lucknow, Lucknow-226007, INDIA

\*Corresponding author. E-mail: dr\_neeru\_1954@yahoo.co.in

**Abstract:** The present study on survey of Surha Tal of district Ballia, U. P. for fish fauna showed the presence of 59 species belonging to 40 genera of 22 families and 8 orders.

**Keywords:** Fauna, Surha Tal, Ballia, U. P.

### INTRODUCTION

Surha Tal (Surha lake) is a perennial lake, located about 13 km north of Ballia town and at distance of about 435 km. from Lucknow. It covers an area of about 20 sq. miles i.e. 9450 acres. In summer, this area shrinks to about 2774 acre. The exposed area of 6676 acre is used for cultivation, during winter and summer of the year. This bed becomes very fertile after the rainy season, as the inflowing water from the surrounding area and from the river Ganges brings and deposits humus soil which settles down at the bottom. Amongst the crop grown in this area are mainly jassuria, paddy and cereals like, arhar, gram, pea etc. The approaching roads to Surha Tal are Ballia-Bansdih road on east, Ballia-Sikandarpur road on west and Bansdih-Sukhapura road on north Fig. 1. Surha Tal is irregular in shape and many shelve like projections of land can be seen on its east and south banks. The other sides are somewhat regular and round.

The Tal receives waters from river Ganges by three small streams i.e. Madhaha, Gararai and Katethar-nala. The Katehar-nala is a very zig-zag water stream of about 15 km in length. It leaves the lake on the eastern side and then curves to south west, passing west to Ballia town and falling into river Ganges a mile below its present confluence with the river Sarju. The Katehar-nala is mostly dry during summer and in the winter months has a sluggish current. However, during the rains, it swells to a large size, either forming an escape for the water of the lake, or else, when the Ganges is high, reversing its action and pouring the water of the river into lake.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was carried out during April, 2006 to March, 2008. The fishes were collected by cast net, gill net and different kind of fish catching appliances and device with the help of fisherman. They were fixed in 5% formalin. Fishes were identified with the help of Day (1878, 1889),

Srivastava (1968, 80), Datta Munshi *et al.* (1979), Jayaram (1981), Datta Munshi and Srivastava (1988), Talwar and Jhigran (1991) and Menon (1992) and confirmed from NBFGR, Lucknow and Zoological Survey India, Kolkata .

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In all, 59 fishes (Table 1) belonging 40 genera of 22 families were collected from Surha Tal. Of them, *Gudusia chapra*, *Setipinna phasa* *N. chitala*, *N. notopterus*, *C. mrigala*, *C. reba*, *Esomus danricus*, *L. rohita*, *L. calbasu*, *Puntius sarana*, *P. conchoni*, *P. sophore*, *Puntius ticto*, *Puntius phutunio*, *Catla catla*, *Amblypharyngodon mola*, *Aspidoparia morar*, *Oxygaster bacaila*, *Oxygaster phulo*, *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*, *Botia dario*, *Ompok pabda*, *Wallago attu*, *Mystus bleekeri*, *Mystus cavasius*, *Mystus vittatus*, *Mystus tengara*, *Aorichthys seenghala*, *Aorichthys aor*, *Rita rita*, *Bagarius bagarius*, *Gagata cenia*, *Sisor rhabdophorus*, *Ailia coila*, *Clupisoma garua*, *Eutropiichthys vacha*, *Heteropneustes fossilis*, *Clarias batrachus*, *Xenentodon cancila*, *Rhinomugil corsula*, *C. marulius*, *Channa striatus*, *Channa punctatus*, *Channa gachua*, *Amphipnous cuchia*, *Chanda nama*, *Chanda ranga*, *Sciaena coitor*, *Badis badis*, *Nandus nandus*, *Colisa fasciatus*, *Colisa lalia*, *Glossogobius giuris*, *Macroganthurus aculeatus*, *Mastacembelus armatus*, *Mastacembelus pancalus* are common and found throughout the year while *Sisor rhabdophorus*, *Anabas testudineus*, *Botia dario*, *Ompok pabda* and *Gagata cenia* are rare. *Tetraodon cutcutia* is only available in planty during rainy seasons after which they are rarely seen. The main source of fish fauna of Surha Tal is the river Ganges and Sarju. It has also been observed that fish fauna of Surha Tal coincides with fauna of above two rivers (Jhingran, 1983). Moreover, siluroid and cyprinoid fishes are found in more or less, equal ratio throughout the year. The air breathing fishes are not found in immense number but their number defiantly increases after summer months. Earlier Lakshman Ram

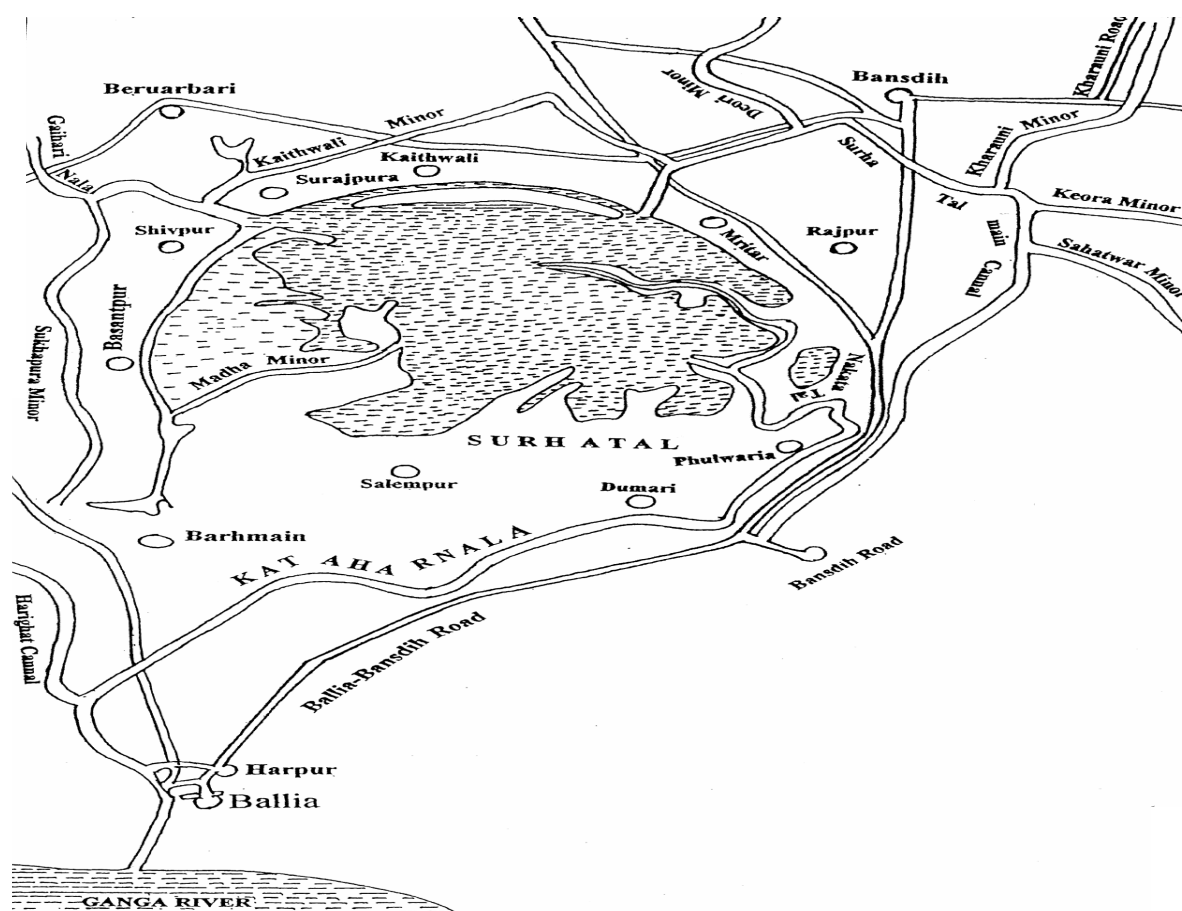


Fig.1. Showing location of Surha Tal.

Table 1. List of species.

| Species   | Local name |
|---|------------|
| <b>Order – Clupeiformes</b>                       |            |
| <b>Family - Clupeidae</b>                         |            |
| 1. <i>Gudusia chapra</i> (Hamilton, 1822)         | Suhia      |
| <b>Family - Engraulidae</b>                       |            |
| 2. <i>Setipinna phasa</i> (Hamilton, 1822)        | Phansi     |
| <b>Family -Notopteridae</b>                       |            |
| 3. <i>Notopterus chitala</i> (Hamilton, 1822)     | Moya       |
| 4. <i>Notopterus notopterus</i> (Pallas, 1767)    | Patra      |
| <b>Order – Cypriniformes</b>                      |            |
| <b>Family – Cyprinidae</b>                        |            |
| 5. <i>Cirrhinus mrigala</i> (Hamilton, 1822)      | Nain       |
| 6. <i>Cirrhinus reba</i> (Hamilton, 1822)         | Raia       |
| 7. <i>Esomus danricus</i> (Hamilton, 1822)        | Dendua     |
| 8. <i>Labeo rohita</i> (Hamilton, 1822)           | Rohu       |
| 9. <i>Labeo calbasu</i> (Hamilton, 1822)          | Karaunchar |
| 10. <i>Puntius sarana</i> (Hamilton, 1822)        | Sidhdhar   |
| 11. <i>Puntius conchoniis</i> (Hamilton, 1822)    | Sidhari    |
| 12. <i>Puntius sophore</i> (Hamilton, 1822)       | Sidhari    |
| 13. <i>Puntius ticto</i> (Hamilton, 1822)         | Sidhari    |
| 14. <i>Puntius phutunio</i> (Hamilton, 1822)      | Sidhari    |
| 15. <i>Catla catla</i> (Hamilton, 1822)           | Bhakur     |
| 16. <i>Amblypharyngodon mola</i> (Hamilton, 1822) | Dhawai     |

**Table 1.** Cont.

|     |   |                |
|-----|---|----------------|
| 17. | <i>Aspidoparia morar</i> (Hamilton, 1822)               | Kenwachi       |
| 18. | <i>Oxygaster bacaila</i> (Hamilton, 1822)               | Chalhawa       |
| 19. | <i>Oxygaster phulo</i> (Hamilton, 1822)                 | Chalhawa       |
| 20. | <i>Hypophthalmichthys molitrix</i> (Valenciennes, 1844) | Silver crop    |
|     | <b>Family – Cobitidae</b>                               |                |
| 21. | <i>Botia dario</i> (Hamilton, 1822)                     | Baghauna       |
|     | <b>Family - Siluridae</b>                               |                |
| 22. | <i>Ompok pabda</i> (Hamilton, 1822)                     | Pamha          |
| 23. | <i>Wallago attu</i> (Bloch and Schneider, 1801)         | Barari         |
|     | <b>Family - Bagridae</b>                                |                |
| 24. | <i>Mystus bleekeri</i> (Day, 1878)                      | Tengara        |
| 25. | <i>Mystus cavasius</i> (Hamilton, 1822)                 | Tengara        |
| 26. | <i>Mystus vittatus</i> (Bloch, 1797)                    | Tengara        |
| 27. | <i>Mystus tengara</i> (Hamilton, 1822)                  | Tengara        |
| 28. | <i>Aorichthys seenghala</i> (Sykes, 1839)               | Dariai Tengar  |
| 29. | <i>Aorichthys aor</i> (Hamilton, 1822)                  | Dariai Tengar  |
| 30. | <i>Rita rita</i> (Hamilton, 1822)                       | Hunna and Rita |
|     | <b>Family - Sisoridae</b>                               |                |
| 31. | <i>Bagarius bagarius</i> (Hamilton, 1822)               | Gonch          |
| 32. | <i>Gagata cenia</i> (Hamilton, 1822)                    | Tinkatia       |
| 33. | <i>Sisor rhabdophorus</i> (Hamilton, 1822)              | Bistuiya       |
|     | <b>Family – Schilbeidae</b>                             |                |
| 34. | <i>Ailia coila</i> (Hamilton, 1822)                     | Patasi         |
| 35. | <i>Clupisoma garua</i> (Hamilton, 1822)                 | Baikari        |
| 36. | <i>Eutropiichthys vacha</i> (Hamilton, 1822)            | Banjhoo        |
|     | <b>Family - Saccobranchidae</b>                         |                |
| 37. | <i>Heteropneustes fossilis</i> (Bloch, 1785)            | Singhi         |
|     | <b>Family - Clariidae</b>                               |                |
| 38. | <i>Clarias batrachus</i> (Linn. (emend. Scopoli), 1758) | Mangur         |
|     | <b>Order- Beloniformes</b>                              |                |
|     | <b>Family -Belonidae</b>                                |                |
| 39. | <i>Xenentodon cancila</i> (Hamilton, 1822)              | Kauwa          |
|     | <b>Order - Mugiliformes</b>                             |                |
|     | <b>Family - Mugilidae</b>                               |                |
| 40. | <i>Rhinomugil corsula</i> (Hamilton, 1822)              | Hunra          |
|     | <b>Family – Ophiocephalidae</b>                         |                |
| 41. | <i>Channa marulius</i> (Hamilton, 1822)                 | Saur           |
| 42. | <i>Channa striatus</i> (Bloch, 1785)                    | Saur           |
| 43. | <i>Channa punctatus</i> (Bloch, 1785)                   | Girai          |
| 44. | <i>Channa gachua</i> (Hamilton, 1822)                   | Chanaga        |
|     | <b>Order – Symbranchiformes</b>                         |                |
|     | <b>Family - Amphinoidae</b>                             |                |
| 45. | <i>Amphipnous cuchia</i> (Hamilton, 1822)               | Anhaya Baam    |
|     | <b>Order – Perciformes</b>                              |                |
|     | <b>Family - Centropomidae</b>                           |                |
| 46. | <i>Chanda nama</i> (Hamilton, 1822)                     | Chanari        |
| 47. | <i>Chanda ranga</i> (Hamilton, 1822)                    | Chanari        |
| 48. | <i>Chanda baculis</i> (Hamilton, 1822)                  | Chanari        |
|     | <b>Family - Sciaena</b>                                 |                |
| 49. | <i>Sciaena coitor</i> (Hamilton, 1822)                  | Patharchatti   |

Table 1. Cont.

|                                   |   |            |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------|
| <b>Family - Nandidae</b>          |   |            |
| 50.                               | <i>Badis badis</i> (Hamilton, 1822)             | Sumha      |
| 51.                               | <i>Nandus nandus</i> (Hamilton, 1822)           | Dhebari    |
| <b>Family - Anabantidae</b>       |   |            |
| 52.                               | <i>Anabas testudineus</i> (Bloch, 1785)         | Kawai      |
| 53.                               | <i>Colisa fasciatus</i> (Bloch and Schn., 1801) | Kholisa    |
| 54.                               | <i>Colisa lalia</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan, 1822)   | Khosti     |
| <b>Family - Gobiidae</b>          |   |            |
| 55.                               | <i>Glossogobius giuris</i> (Hamilton, 1822)     | Bulla      |
| <b>Order – Mastacembeleformes</b> |   |            |
| <b>Family - Mastacembelidae</b>   |   |            |
| 56.                               | <i>Macroganthus aculeatus</i> (Bloch, 1787)     | Pataya     |
| 57.                               | <i>Mastacembelus armatus</i> (Lacepede, 1800)   | Baam       |
| 58.                               | <i>Mastacembelus panculus</i> (Hamilton, 1822)  | Pataya     |
| <b>Order - Tetrodontiformes</b>   |   |            |
| <b>Family - Tetraodon</b>         |   |            |
| 59.                               | <i>Tetraodon cutcutia</i> (Hamilton, 1822)      | Galphulani |

(1976) has recorded 56 species of fishes of which 12 species viz. *Gudusia godnahiae*, *Chela laubuca*, *Oxygaster gora*, *Salmostoma phulo phulo*, *Labeo boga*, *Osteobrama cotio cotio*, *Puntius chola*, *P. terio*, *Lepidocephalus guntea*, *Pseudeutropius atherenoides*, *Channa orientalis* and *Glossogobius gutum* have not been collected by the authors and now appear to be absent in Surha Tal. Of above, about dozen fishes can be grouped as weed fishes and are found throughout the year in fairly good number but in post monsoon months in greater number. They are mostly found in littoral areas of the lake among dense aquatic weeds. *Glossogobius giuris* and *Colisa fasciatus* are found in higher number during winter season due to higher macrophytic density. *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix* is exotic available in the region.

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