DESCRIPTION

OF FISH SPECIES
2.1. *Channa marulius* (Hamilton, 1822)

**Systematic position**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taxonomic Level</th>
<th>Classification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kingdom</td>
<td>Animalia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phylum</td>
<td>Chordata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub phylum</td>
<td>Vertebrata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super class</td>
<td>Gnathostomata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Osteichthyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order</td>
<td>Perciformes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Channidae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genus</td>
<td><em>Channa</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td><em>marulius</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Channa marulius*
Common names

*Channa marulius*, in different regions of the country, is commonly known as haal, sal, gajal, pumurl, bhor, kubrah, sawal, dowlah, saal, poomeenu, phoola-chapa, phool-mural, aviri, puveral, curuva, bral, madinji and aviu (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991).

Geographical distribution

India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Burma, Thailand and China. Inhabits large lakes and rivers; prefers deep, clear stretches of water with sandy or rocky bottom (Talwar and Jhinglan, 1991).

Conservation status

Lower risk near threatened (Molur and Walker, 1998); least concern (IUCN, 2012).

Identification

Body elongated. Eyes moderate, its diameter 7 to 8 times in head length. Mouth large. Pectoral fins about half head length; pelvic fin about 75% of pectoral fin length. Caudal fin rounded (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991). Scales on top of the head are moderate-sized with a rosette of head scales between the orbits, with the frontal head scale in the center of the rosette (Courtenay and Williams, 2004). There is a distinctive orange spot on the caudal peduncle (Fuller, 2009).

Threats

Fishing, loss of habitat and overexploitation (Molur and Walker, 1998).

Habitat and Ecology

*Channa marulius* occurs in rivers, canals and lakes; prefers deep, clear stretches of water with sandy or rocky bottoms (Chaudhry, 2010).

Fishery information

*C. marulius* is highly popular food fish. It may attain a length of 122 cm; commonly about 46 cm, predaceous; eggs are laid in nests guarded by parents; breeding almost throughout the year. The giant snakehead is common in rivers and duars (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991).
2.2. *Channa punctata* (Bloch, 1793)

**Systematic position**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Taxon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kingdom</td>
<td>Animalia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phylum</td>
<td>Chordata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub phylum</td>
<td>Vertebrata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super class</td>
<td>Gnathostomata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Osteichthyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order</td>
<td>Perciformes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Channidae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genus</td>
<td><em>Channa</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td><em>punctata</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Common names

*Channa punctata*, in different regions of the country, is commonly known as spotted snakehead, taki, lata, phool-dhok, daula, soal, gorissa, burada-matta, kayichal, korava, kuchi and belikkorava (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991).

Geographical distribution

India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Burma and Yunnan. It inhabits large freshwater ponds and tanks, generally in the plains.

Conservation status

Lower Risk near threatened (Molur and Walker, 1998); Least Concern (IUCN, 2012).

Identification

Length of head is 3.2-3.5 of total length and 2.7 of standard length (Rahman, 1989). Eyes comparatively of small size and located on the anterior side of head. Two pairs of nostril are found at the anterior superior angle of the eyes. Lower jaw is slightly protruding. Teeth on lower jaw are conical. Barbels are absent. Pectoral fin position is a little above the pelvic fin and caudal fin long and rounded. According the Bhuiyan (1964), maximum length is 30 cm (http://en.bdfish.org/2010/05/channa-punctatus/). Several dark blotches on flanks; some specimens with numerous black spots on body, and also on dorsal, anal and caudal fins (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991).

Threats

Fishing, loss of habitat and overexploitation (Molur and Walker, 1998).

Habitat and Ecology

According to Bhatti (1934), *C. punctatus* burrows in mud and prefers stagnant and muddy to running waters. It is carnivorous. It constructs a nest of floating weeds, moves over ground from pool to pool. It is voracious and predatory to small fish and fries (http://en.bdfish.org/2010/05/channa-punctatus/).
**Fishery Information**

This species attains a length of 31 cm; prefers stagnant waters, in muddy streams. Prolific breeder; breeds in ponds almost throughout the year by building circular nests between marginal weeds; peak breeding before and during monsoon months; matures in first year. The spotted snakehead is common throughout the plains of India and Pakistan (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991).
2.3. *Labeo bata* (Hamilton, 1822)

**Systematic position**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Taxon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kingdom</td>
<td>Animalia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phylum</td>
<td>Chordata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub phylum</td>
<td>Vertebrata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super class</td>
<td>Gnathostomata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Osteichthyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order</td>
<td>Cypriniformes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Cyprinidae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genus</td>
<td><em>Labeo</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td><em>bata</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Labeo bata*
Common names

*Labeo bata*, in different regions of the country, is commonly known as bata, bhagan, naro, morah, tambti, rajadi, mosu, and kindameen (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991).

Geographical distribution

Asia: India and Bangladesh. Reported from Pakistan (Froese and Pauly, 2012; IUCN, 2012).

Conservation status

Lower risk near threatened (Molur and Walker, 1998); Least concern (IUCN, 2012).

Identification

Body elongated with dorsal profile more convex than the ventral. Snout slightly projecting beyond mouth, often studded with pores. Eyes are large. Mouth inferior, lips thin (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991). A pair of small maxillary barbels is hidden inside the labial fold (Rahman, 1989). Dorsal fin inserted nearer to snout-tip than base of caudal fin. Pectoral fin as long as head, extending to pelvic fins. Scales moderate, lateral line with 37 to 47 scales (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991).

Threats

Loss of habitat, overexploitation and siltation may be the local threats to wild populations (Molur and Walker, 1998; IUCN, 2012).

Habitat and Ecology

*L. bata* is a benthopelagic and potamodromous species, which inhabits rivers. It is an herbivorous column feeder (Devi and Boguskaya, 2011).

Fishery information

This minor carp is cultivated along with the Indian major carps in India. It is widely cultivated in bheries and estuarine waters in the Sundarbans (West Bengal) and extensively used for stocking tanks in several other parts of India (Froese and Pauly,
2011). It is assessed as a least concern due to its wide distribution and lack of major widespread threats (http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/166595/0).
2.4. *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix* (Valenciennes, 1844)

**Systematic position**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kingdom</th>
<th>Animalia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phylum</td>
<td>Chordata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub phylum</td>
<td>Vertebrata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super class</td>
<td>Gnathostomata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Osteichthyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order</td>
<td>Cypriniformes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Cyprinidae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genus</td>
<td><em>Hypophthalmichthys</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td><em>molitrix</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*
Common names
*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*, in different regions of the country, is commonly known as silver carp.

Geographical distribution
Europe and Asia: Native to most major Pacific drainages of East Asia from Amur to Xi Jiang, China (Kottelat and Freyhof, 2007). China and Eastern Siberia (Froese and Pauly, 2012). The silver carp was first introduced in Cuttack (Orissa) and now is found all over India (Khanna and Singh, 2006).

Conservation status
Near threatened (IUCN, 2012)

Identification
Body is laterally compressed and deep. Head large, Eyes are located near the ventral side. Mouth is terminal, disproportionately large, without barbells. Dorsal fin is with 8 rays; no adipose fin. Anal fin with 13 to 15 rays. Lateral line with 83 to 125 scales (FAO, 2005-2013).

Threats
The species has been impacted by dams, pollution, and overfishing. Dams and pollution destroy the habitat ecology and reproductive success (IUCN, 2012).

Habitat and Ecology
Feeds on phytoplankton and zooplankton. In its natural range, it migrates upstream to breed; egg and larva float downstream to floodplain zones. Swims just beneath the water surface. Very sensitive to low temperature (below 5°C) and oxygen deficit (IUCN, 2012). Singh et al. (2013) reported occurrence of *H. molitrix* in different rivers, natural lakes and reservoirs of Uttar Pradesh, India.
Fishery Information

It breeds naturally in rivers and has been bred in ponds by hypophysation (Khanna and Singh, 2006). In India, *H. molitrix* played a significant role in the country’s aquaculture ever since their introduction in 1959 (Tripathi, 1989). *H. molitrix* is generally cultured and consumed locally alive or fresh in most of the producing countries. These species have made a substantial contribution to food production but have also been implicated in threatening endemic species in the country (Acousta and Gupta, 2005).
2.5. *Mastacembelus armatus*

**Systematic position**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kingdom</th>
<th>Animalia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phylum</td>
<td>Chordata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub phylum</td>
<td>Vertebrata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super class</td>
<td>Gnathostomata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Osteichthyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order</td>
<td>Synbranchiformes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Mastacembelidae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genus</td>
<td><em>Mastacembelus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td><em>armatus</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Mastacembelus armatus*
Common names
*Mastacembelus armatus*, in different regions of the country, is commonly known as
bami, bam, vahm, groage, bummi, gonti, shatarh, kalarah, vam and vat (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991).

Geographical distribution
India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Burma, through Thailand and Malaya to southern
China (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991).

Conservation status
Least concern (IUCN, 2012).

Identification
Body relatively slender. Preopercle with 2 or 3 spines usually conspicuous, but often one
or more may be embedded in skin, preorbital spine strong and usually piercing skin.
Mouth small. Spinous dorsal fin inserted above middle or posterior third of pectoral fins.
last dorsal spine small and hidden beneath skin. Dorsal and anal fins broadly joined to
caudal fin (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991).

Threats
No information available on threats to this species. It is caught by local level fisheries
(Talwar and Jhingran, 1991).

Habitat and Ecology
Inhabits freshwaters in plains and hills (IUCN, 2012).

Fishery Information
Attains a length of 61 cm and is the largest spiny eel. It is reported to be very good food
fish. It is common during the summer months. This is also found commonly at quite high
altitudes in river Tawi (Jammu) and its tributaries (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991).
2.6. *Heteropneustes fossilis* (Bloch, 1794)

**Systematic position**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kingdom</th>
<th>Animalia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phylum</td>
<td>Chordata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub phylum</td>
<td>Vertebrata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super class</td>
<td>Gnathostomata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Osteichthyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order</td>
<td>Siluriformes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Heteropneustidae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genus</td>
<td><em>Heteropneustes</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td><em>fossilis</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Heteropneustes fossilis*
**Common names**

*Heteropneustes fossilis*, in different regions of the country, is commonly known as stinging catfish, singhee, sheen, singhi, bitchu, talia, lahoord, nullie, ingilayee, marpu, thaylee, thalimeen, seruva and sinimeen (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991).

**Geographical distribution**

Known from India, Bangladesh, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam (Jayaram, 1999).

**Conservation status**

Vulnerable (Molur and Walker, 1998); Least Concern (IUCN, 2012).

**Identification**

Body elongated, compressed and abdomen rounded. Head is moderate, greatly depressed and covered with thin skin. Snout flat, mouth terminal and teeth viliform. Eyes small and lateral. Barbels 4 pairs, 1 maxillary, 1 nasal and 2 mandibular. Dorsal fin short, inserted usually above tip of pectoral fins. Pectoral fin with a strong spine, anal fin long based, separated by a distant notch from caudal fin (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991).

**Threats**

Population is threatened due to habitat loss and high fishing pressure (Molur and Walker, 1998).

**Habitat and Ecology**

It inhabits muddy bottoms of weed infested ponds and lakes, subsisting on benthic and decaying organic matter. Inhabits freshwater, rarely brackish waters. This is primarily a fish of ponds, ditches, bheels, swamps and marshes, but it is sometimes found in muddy rivers. It is able to tolerate slightly brackish water. Its air-breathing apparatus enables it to exist in almost any kind of water. Generally, during the dry season singi lives in semi liquid and semi-dry mud, and even when the mud dries up they take their bodies to the bottom of fissures and crevices formed by the cracking mud (IUCN, 2012).
Fishery information

Used as food fish in India. The fish has high economic importance and great demand because of medicinal value (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991).
2.7. *Clarias gariepinus* (Burchell, 1822)

**Systematic position**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kingdom</th>
<th>Animalia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phylum</td>
<td>Chordata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub phylum</td>
<td>Vertebrata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super class</td>
<td>Gnathostomata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Osteichthyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order</td>
<td>Siluriformes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Clariidae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genus</td>
<td><em>Clarias</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td><em>gariepinus</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Clarias gariepinus*
Common names

*Clarias gariepinus*, is commonly known as African mushí, mangur etc.

Geographical distribution

Africa: almost Pan-Africa, absent from Maghreb, the upper and lower Guinea and the Cape Province and probably also Nogal province. Asia: Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Syria and southern Turkey. Widely introduced to other parts of Africa, Europe and Asia. Several countries report adverse ecological impact after introduction (Froese and Pauly, 2012). Introduced clandestinely into the Indian waters by fish farmers for culture (Sugunan, 1977).

Conservation status

Not evaluated

Identification

The head is large, depressed, and heavily boned (Skelton, 1993). The head is somewhat between rectangular and pointed in dorsal outline; the snout is broadly rounded. The eyes have a supero-lateral position and are relatively small. The distance between the occipital process and the base of the dorsal fin is short; the dorsal fin almost reaches the caudal fin. The anal fin origin is closer to the caudal fin base than to the snout; it nearly reaches the caudal fin. The pelvic fin is closer to the snout than to the caudal fin base (Teugels, 1986).
Threats
Not evaluated

Habitat and Ecology
This species is found in variety of freshwater environments, including quiet waters like lakes, ponds, and pools. They are also very prominent in flowing rivers, rapids, and around dams (Teugels, 1986). This species can live in very poorly oxygenated waters (Pienaar, 1968). They are able to secrete mucus to prevent drying and also able to burrow in the muddy substrate of a drying body of water (Skelton, 1993). Singh et al. (2013) reported occurrence of *C. gariepinus* in different rivers, natural lakes and reservoirs of Uttar Pradesh, India.

Fishery information
This is one of the commercially most important freshwater fish in Africa. The total catch reported for this species to FAO for 1999 was 27,220 t. The countries with the largest catches were Mali (15,091 t) and Nigeria (9,994 t). This species has been imported for purposes of aquaculture and game fish. Marketed live, fresh and frozen (FAO 2010-2013). In Assam, this fish has been reported to grow up to 6.80 kg in a year and become highly popular among the fish farmers (Baruah et al., 1999).
2.8. *Clarias batrachus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Systematic position**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kingdom</th>
<th>Animalia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phylum</td>
<td>Chordata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub phylum</td>
<td>Vertebrata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super class</td>
<td>Gnathostomata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Osteichthyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order</td>
<td>Siluriformes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Clariidae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genus</td>
<td><em>Clarias</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td><em>batrachus</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Clarias batrachus*
Common names

*Clarias batrachus*, in different regions of the country, is commonly known as magur, wagur, manguri, mangur, kugga, magurah, maguro, marpoo, marpulu, masarai, muzhi, mazhu, musi and halimeena (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991).

Geographical distribution

Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam (IUCN, 2012).

Conservation status

Vulnerable (Molur and Walker, 1998); Least Concern (IUCN, 2012).

Identification

Body is compressed posteriorly. Upper jaw is slightly longer than the lower jaw. Mouth is wide and terminal. Four maxillary and four mandibular barbels are present. Dorsal fin and anal fin both are long, reaching to caudal base. Caudal fin is homocerail, separated from dorsal and anal fin (Sahoo et al., 2010). Spines of pectoral fins are rough on its outer edge and serrated on its inner edge (Taki, 1974).

Threats

Population is declining due to high fishing pressure and habitat loss from rapid urbanization (Sahoo et al., 2010).

Habitat and Ecology

Inhabits swampy areas and water bodies adjacent to paddy fields. Omnivore with broad feeding habits at different life stages (Hora and Pillay, 1962).

Fishery Information

Abundant in ponds and rivers and in the mud they lay concealed for hours. Found in all types of waters but more so in derelict and swampy waters. It can live out of waters for quite some time and can travel short distances over land as it has an accessory respiratory
organ. This is a rather hardy fish. It attains a length of 46 cm and in captivity lives for a
number of years. The species has a short spawning period during July-August, coinciding
with the south-west monsoons. Also breeds in confined waters of ponds and tanks. Often
migrates to nearby inundated pools and puddles for breeding during rainy season (Talwar
and Jhingran, 1991).
2.9. *Wallago attu* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)

**Systematic position**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kingdom</th>
<th>Animalia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phylum</td>
<td>Chordata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub phylum</td>
<td>Vertebrata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super class</td>
<td>Gnathostomata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Osteichthyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order</td>
<td>Siluriformes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Siluridae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genus</td>
<td><em>Wallago</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td><em>attu</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Wallago attu*
Common names

*Wallago attu*, in different regions of the country, is commonly known as sareng, barali, poil, bayali, koyali, boal, barware, boyari, paran, boallec, boabe, walagah, valuga, valaga, vazai, bahle, chate, pari, purram, pahree and pattan (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991).

Geographical distribution

It is widely distributed in the Indian subcontinent countries, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Burma, Sri-Lanka, and other Asian countries including Thailand, Vietnam, Kampuchea, Malay Peninsula, Indonesia and Afghanistan (Roberts, 1982; Yen and Trong, 1988; Giri et al., 2002; Froese and Pauly, 2012).

Conservation status

Lower risk near threatened (Molur and Walker, 1998); Near Threatened (IUCN, 2012).

Identification

Body is elongate and laterally compressed. Eyes small. The snout is depressed. Mouth wide, its gape extends posteriorly to beyond eyes. Barbels two pairs; maxillary pair long extends posteriorly to well beyond origin of anal fin, the mandibular pair much shorter, about as long as snout (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991). Dorsal fin small and anal fin very long (Taki, 1974; Froese and Pauly, 2012).
Threats

Populations are declining due to over-exploitation, destruction of brood fishes from freshwater habitats, environmental degradation, pesticide, pollution and lack of proper management (Mijkherjee et al., 2002; Patra et al., 2005).

Habitat and Ecology

It inhabits standing and running waters, usually in rivers, lakes, reservoirs, floodplains, and tanks with mud or silty bottoms and grasses (Roberts, 1993). Juveniles usually feed on insects (Sokheng et al., 1999) and adults are strongly piscivorous, feeding on small fishes, shrimps and mollusks (Islam et al., 2006).

Fishery information

Inhabits large rivers, tanks and lakes. It is one of the largest, voracious and predatory of the local catfishes which thrive well in rivers and tanks also, especially in jheels with grassy margin. It is fished in large numbers, being caught in large scoop nets, long-lines and hooks. Abundant during the warm season, considerable quantities are sold round the year in all parts of India. It is a premonsoon summer breeder. It grows to about 2 m and weighs more than 45 kg (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991).
2.10. *Ompok pabda* (Hamilton, 1822)

**Systematic position**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kingdom</th>
<th>Animalia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phylum</td>
<td>Chordata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub phylum</td>
<td>Vertebrata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super class</td>
<td>Gnathostomata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Osteichthyes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order</td>
<td>Siluriformes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Siluridae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genus</td>
<td><em>Ompok</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td><em>pabda</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Ompok pabda*
Common names
*Ompok pabda,* in different regions of the country, is commonly known as pabda catfish, leothari, pahboh, pabda, pabo, pava, pahboh, pallu and tambulivapapta (Talwar and Jhingran, 1992).

Geographical distribution
India: north-eastern states, Pakistan: Indus plain and adjoining hilly areas, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma and Myanmar. Inhabits rivers, tanks and ponds (Talwar and Jhingran, 1992).

Conservation status
Endangered (Molur and Walker, 1998); Near Threatened (IUCN, 2012).

Identification
Body elongated and compressed. Eyes moderate, mouth is large and oblique. Barbels two pairs; maxillary pair extends usually to as far as middle of pectoral fin (often to tip), the mandibular barbels extend to posterior border of eye. Anal fin long, inserted usually opposite to origin of dorsal fin. Pectoral spine moderately strong, serrated on its inner edge in males, often feebly in females. Caudal fin forked, its lobes pointed.

Threats
Populations are declining due to over-exploitation and pollution (Molur and Walker, 1998).

Habitat and Ecology
The species inhabits lotic habitats such as rivers and larger streams. Lentic habitats such as lakes and ponds are likely to be marginal for this species (Tenzin and Ng, 2010).
Fishery Information

This species attains a length of 17 cm is caught in fairly large numbers in the northeastern states of India and West Bengal. The natural population of *O. pabda* has been greatly reduced in the Indian water with a very low percentage catch and had a very restricted distribution in the tributaries of river Ganga basin (Sarkar et al., 2008, 2010; Gupta et al., 2011).