



DIVERSITY OF FRESH WATER FISHES FROM ERAI RIVER NEAR DATA LA BRIDGE, DISTRICT -CHANDRAPUR, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

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ABSTRACT: Present survey was undertaken to report the fish diversity of Erai River. The study was carried out in between June 2021 to August 2021. The fish of Erai river was collected and identified in the present study. A total of 17 fish species belonging to families were recorded from study sites Erai River. In the present investigation, 17 species of fishes belonging to 6 different orders and 10 families were observed. The order Cypriniforms was the largest, most dominating and was represented by 6 species, the order Perciformes was represented by 2 different species, order Siluriform was represented by 3 different species, order Anabantiformes was represented by 3 different species, order Osteoglossiformes was represented by 1 species, order Synbranchiformes was represented by 1 species, order Cichliformes was represented by 1 species of fishes.

Key words: - Erai River , Fish Diversity

INTRODUCTION :

Water is one of the most important and abundant compounds of the ecosystem. All living organisms on the earth need water for their survival and growth. As of now only earth is the planet having about 70 % of water. Fish are abundant in most bodies of water. Fish are an important resource for humans worldwide, especially as food.

Fish forms highest species diversity among all vertebrates and their loss is one of the world's most pressing crises as human life and livelihood largely depend on the status of biological resources. The freshwater fish is one of the most threatened taxonomic groups due to their high sensitivity to the quantitative and qualitative alteration in aquatic habitats⁽¹⁰⁾.

Many researchers have studied Biodiversity and Distribution of fishes found in freshwater bodies of various parts of the state Maharashtra, India. (Heda 2009)⁽²⁾ reported 32 species from Kathani

river of Gadchiroli, Dist. Gadchiroli. (Rankhamb 2009 and 2010)⁽⁸⁾ reported 26 species from Godavari River at Mudgal Dist, Parbhani. (Gadekar and Tijare 2010 and 2012)⁽¹⁾ reported 49 species from Wainganga river, Markandadeo region Dist Gadchiroli, Maharashtra. (Jadhav, et. al 2011)⁽³⁾ reported 58 species of fishes from Koyna River, Western Ghat, India. (Khune 2012)⁽⁷⁾ reported 40 fish species from Chulbunhdh Reservoir, Dist.- Gondia. Very rare information is available about ichthyofauna, present in lotic and lentic habitats of district Jalgaon and rare studies are available on the fish fauna of Girna River (Shelke 2016)⁽¹²⁾ studied the Ichthyofaunal Biodiversity of Girna Dam, Dist. Nashik, Maharashtra, India and reported 24 species. Biodiversity is essential for stabilization of ecosystem and protection of overall environmental quality.

MATERIAL AND METHODS:

Erai river is a main tributary of Wardha River in Chandrapur District and Zarpur River is a tributary of Erai River. Total length of Erai River from origin to meeting point at Wardha River is 25 km approx. The river originates near Kasarbodi / khadsangi, Tal. Chimur, Dist. Chandrapur. Erai river meets Wardha river near Hadasti village. It has a total length of 78 km and lies entirely within Chandrapur district. Fishes were collected from Erai river Dist. Chandrapur, India with the help of local fishermen using different type of nets namely gill nets, cast nets, drag nets and bhorjal. The fishes were identified from standard key K.S.Misra (1962).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

A total of 17 fish species belonging to families were recorded from study sites erai river.

They are *Puntius sarana*, *Labeo fimbriatus*, *Puntius stigma*, *Labeo calbasu*, *Rohtee ogilbii*, *Puntius sophore*, *Oreochromis mossabicus*, *Ambasis ranga*, *Mystus cavasius*, *Heteropneustes fossilis*, *Wallogo attu*, *Channa striata*, *Channa punctata*, *Anabus testudinus*, *Notopterus notopterus*, *Oreochromis niloticus*, *Mastacembelus armatus*. In the present investigation, 17 species of fishes belonging to 6 different orders and 10 families were observed. The order Cypriniformes was the largest, most dominating and was represented by 6 species, the order Periciformes was represented by 2 different species, order Siluriformes was represented by 3 different species, order Anabantiformes was represented by 3 different species, order Osteoglossiformes was represented by 1 species, order Synbranchiformes was represented by 1 species, order Cichliformes was represented by 1 species of fishes. Shown in Table 1 and Figure 2.

Family wise distribution showed dominance of Cyprinidae with 7 species, followed by Cichlidae with 2, Abassidae with 1, Bagridae with 1,

Channidae with 2, Heteropneustidae with 1, Notopteridae with 1, Siluridae with 1, Mastacembalidae with 1, Anabantidae with 1. This different species of fishes were observed. Shown in Table 1 and Figure 3.

Sarwade and Khillare (2010) reported the 60 species of fishes belonging to 15 families and 36 genera during their study on Ujani wetland (M.S.). Kamble and Reddi (2012) reported the occurrence of 10 species of fishes belonging to 5 orders and 6 families. Kharat et al. (2012) had recorded 51 species of fishes belonging to the 14 families and 35 genera during their study on Krishna River at Wai (M.S.). Jayabhaye and Lahane (2013) observed the 21 species of fishes belonging to 6 families and 13 genera during their study period on Pimpaldari tank, Dist. Hingoli (M.S.). Our findings are corroborating with observations of Sakhare (2001), Sarwade and Khillare (2010), Kharat et al. (2012) and Jayabhaye and Lahane (2013).

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Table 1: LIST OF FRESH WATER FISHES FROM ERAI RIVER NEAR DATALA BRIDGE, DISTRICT -CHANDRAPUR, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

| Sr. no | Class | Order | Family | Genus and Species |
|--------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Actinopterygii | Cypriniformes | Cyprinidae | Puntius sarana |
| 2 | Actinopterygii | Cypriniformes | Cyprinidae | Labeo frimbriatus |
| 3 | Actinopterygii | Cypriniformes | Cyprinidae | Puntius stigma |
| 4 | Actinopterygii | Cypriniformes | Cyprinidae | Labeo calbasu |
| 5 | Actinopterygii | Cypriniformes | Cyprinidae | Rohtee ogilbii |
| 6 | Actinopterygii | Cypriniformes | Cyprinidae | Puntius sophore |
| 7 | Actinopterygii | Perciformes | Cichlidae | Oreochromis mossabicus |
| 8 | Actinopterygii | Perciformes | Ambassidae | Ambassis ranga |
| 9 | Actinopterygii | Siluriformes | Bagridae | Mystus cavasius |
| 10 | Actinopterygii | Siluriformes | Heteropneustidae | Heteropneustes fossilis |
| 11 | Actinopterygii | Siluriformes | Siluridae | Wallago attu |
| 12 | Actinopterygii | Anabantiformes | Channidae | Channa striata |
| 13 | Actinopterygii | Anabantiformes | Channidae | Channa punctata |
| 14 | Actinopterygii | Anabantiformes | Anabantidae | Anabus testudinus |
| 15 | Actinopterygii | Osteoglossiformes | Notopteridae | Notopterus notopterus |
| 16 | Actinopterygii | Cichliformes | Cichlidae | Oreochromis niloticus |
| 17 | Actinopterygii | Synbranchiformes | Mastacembelidae | Mastacembelus armatus |

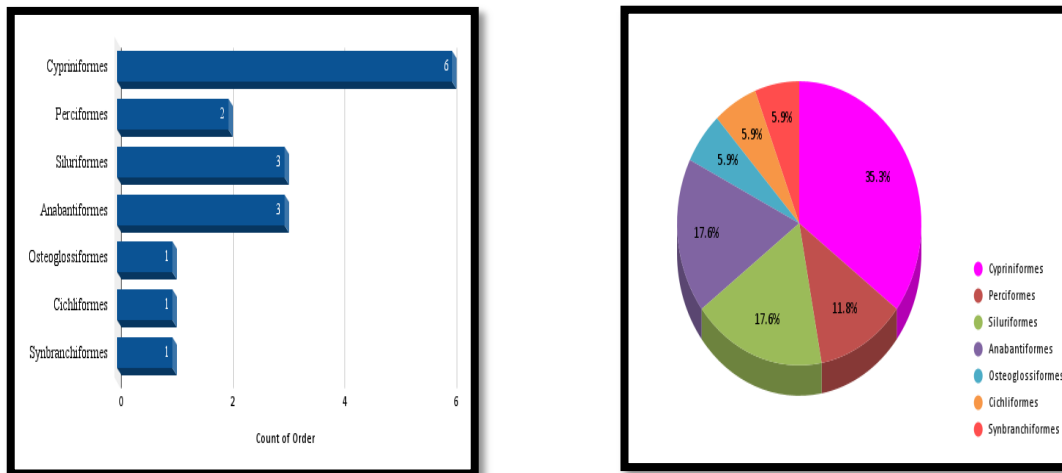


Fig 2: Freshwater fish orders of Erai River, near dataala bridge, District -Chandrapur, Maharashtra, India

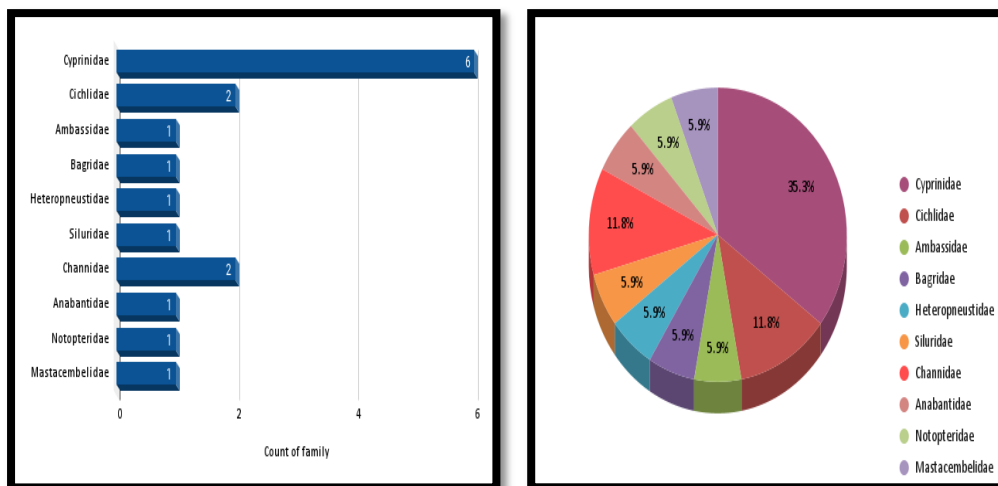


Fig 3: Freshwater fish Families of Erai River, near dataala bridge, District -Chandrapur, Maharashtra, India

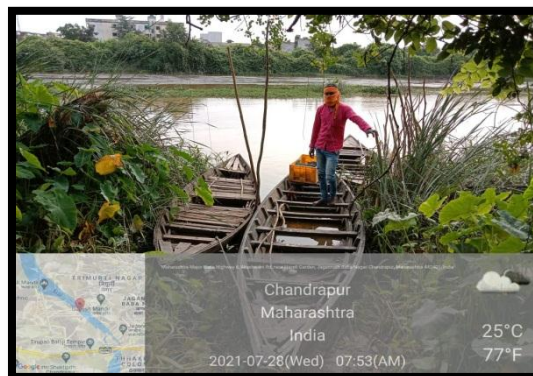
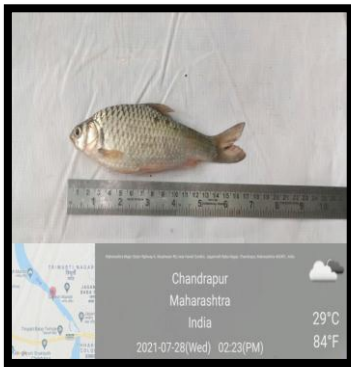


Fig 4 : Study site of Erai River

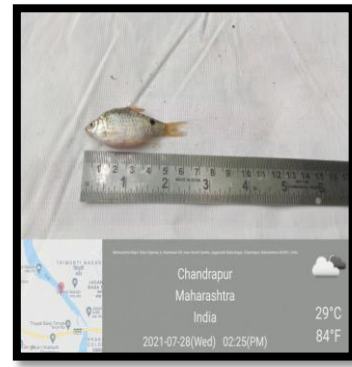
PHOTOPLATE OF FRESH WATER FISHES FROM ERAI RIVER NEAR DATA LA BRIDGE, DISTRICT -CHANDRAPUR, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA



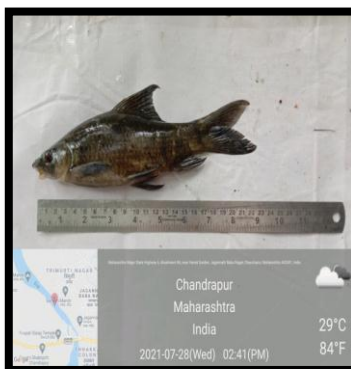
Puntius sarana



Labeo fimbriatus



Puntius stigma



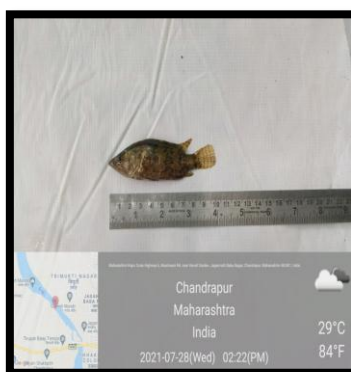
Labeo calbasu



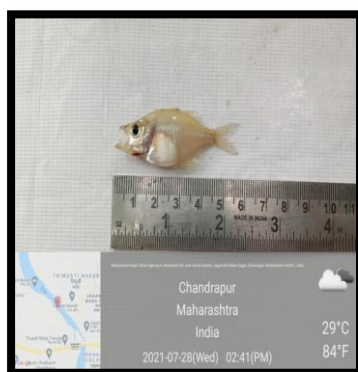
Rohtee ogilbii



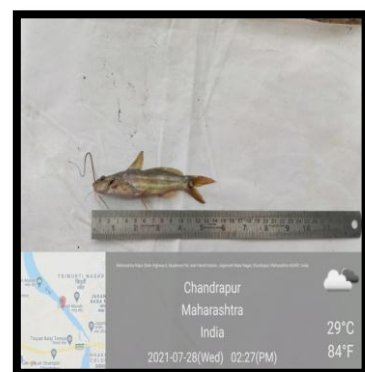
Puntius sophore



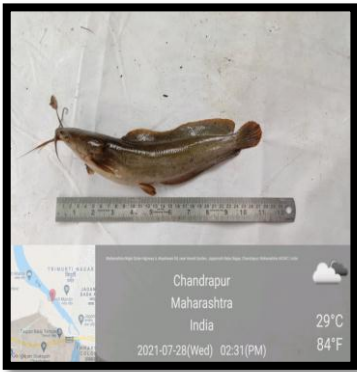
Oreochromis mossambicus



Ambassis ranga



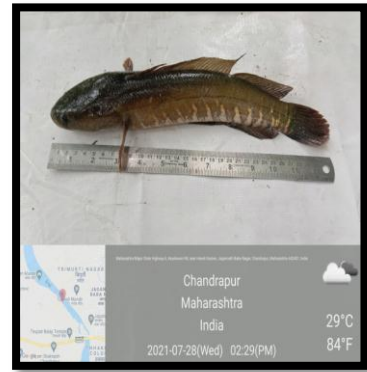
Mystus cavasius



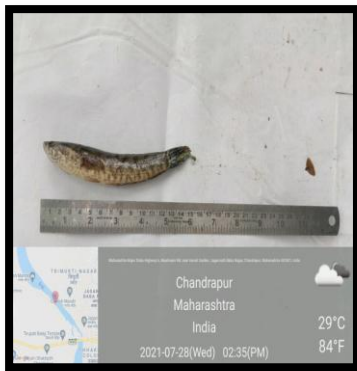
Heteropneustes fossilis



Wallogo attu



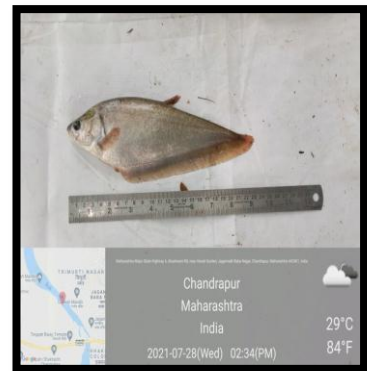
Channa striata



Channa punctata



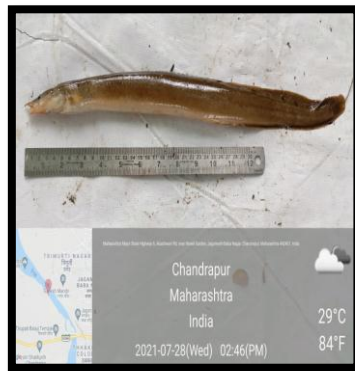
Anabus testudinus



Notopterus notopterus



Oreochromis niloticus



Mastacembelus armatus