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# Contribution of Research Projects and Environmental Impact Assessment Studies to Fauna Biodiversity in Sudan



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#### Abstract

Eighteen species of ants were recorded for the first time in Sudan including *Lepisiota omeri* n. sp.; Parasitological surveys of freshwater fishes of the Sudan during 2006 to 2014 revealed the presence of four genera of parasitic crustacean; 42 species belonging to 19 monogenean genera parasites were collected from 26 fish species. Out of these the following five species are new to science (n. sp.): *Quadriacanthus fornicatus, Q. pravus, Q. zuheiri, Q. mandibulatus* and *Dogielius senegalensis*. Seven new records to the Sudan helminthes were added. These are: two cestodes (*Monobothrioides tchadensis* and *Proteocephalus glanduligerus*); one digenetic (*Clinostomum complanatum* larva) and three nematodes (*Capillaria sp., Spinitectus sp.* and *Philometra bagri*. Recording of *Barsonella lafoni* as a n. sp. of Proteocephalidean (Cestoda) from *Clarias* catfishes was based on material from Tarkana Lake (Kenya) and Wadi Halfa, Lake Nubia, Sudan.

Fourteen nematodes including *Cucullanus mormyri* sp. n. from *Mormyrus caschive* from Kosti (White Nile) and *Procamallanus (Spirocamallanus)* pseudospiralis sp. n. from *Synodontis schall* from Khartoum, and S. frontosus, S. nigrita and S. schall from Khashm el Girba (Atbara River). In addition to two nematodes Contracaecum sp. Third stage-larvae Type 2 and *Capillariidae gen.* sp., needs further evaluation. All these parasites represent new host and geographical records. With respect to fishes an apparently undescribed *Haplochromis* species, marked variation in *Sarotherodon galilaeus* populations were noticed. *Paradistichodus dimidiatus* and *Enteromius macrops* were reported for the first time from the main Nile Basin. The mormyrid species *Cyphomyrus petherici* and *Petrocephalus keatingii*, as well as the small mochokid *Mochokus brevis* are new locality record for the White Nile. *Coptodon zilli* is a new locality record for Lake Nubia. Six bird species: *Pelecanus onocrotalus, Phalacrocorax africanus, Ciconia ciconia, Platalea leucorodia, Haliaetus vocifer* and *Pluvianus aegyptius* were recorded for the first time from Lake Nubia.

Keywords: Fauna; Biodiversity; Sudan

#### Introduction

Sudan is endowed with diversified habitats extending from the Red Sea hot brines (Atlantis II Deep) in the east to the high peaks of Jebel Marra in the west. Its ecological zones extend from low rain fall savannah in the south to deserts in the north with the meandering River Nile and its tributaries heading north to Egypt at the Mediterranean Sea. The goods, services and values provided by the biota in these habitats are immense. In line with this is the value of corals of the Sudanese Red Sea described by Jacques Cousteau "Life abounds in bank after bank of exuberant coral structures, second only to those of The Great Barrier Reef in extent and exceeding it perhaps in splendor" [1]. The presence of some flora communities in remote and inaccessible areas calls for fund raising to fill in the gap in knowledge [2]. This holds true for fauna.

The author contributed in the following four studies: diversity of ants of Sudan based on material collected during environmental

impact assessment surveys; parasitological findings from freshwater fishes collected from Kosti, Sinnar, Khashm el Girba "Parasitological survey of freshwater fishes of the Nile project" [3-5]; the diversity of fresh water fishes project [6] and the avifauna of Lake Nubia documented in "Watershed Management Framework: Nubia Lake Environmental Survey" [7].

The objective of this work is to cast light on the contribution of field work, research projects and environmental impact assessment studies to the fauna Biodiversity in Sudan based on data from four selected.

#### **Material and Methods**

Ants were picked up using a strip of paper, preserved in 70% ethanol with one drop of glycerol. Identification of ant was based on Bolton [8-11]. The websites [10,11] contains notes on ants of the Sudan concerning location, habits, collector and authors.

The gills of freshly killed fishes were extracted and examined in bottled water under a dissecting microscope. Live monogeneans were individually picked from the gills with fine needles and prepared for morphological studies following [12]. Parasites found in the intestine were isolated and prepared for examination following [13,14] as appropriate.

For description of birds seen a binocular (B-111, 8x30 ZCF) was used. Their identification followed [15-17]. Their status information followed [18] and conservation status followed [19]. Documentation was made by a Nikon DX (AF-SNIKKOR 18-55mm 1:3.5-5.6G and 55-200mm 1:4-5.6G ED) digital camera whenever appropriate.

#### **Results and Discussion**

#### Ants

The findings are summarized in the following points:

*a)* Lepisiota omeri Taylor was described as a new Hymenoptera, Formicidae species for science from Haj Abd Alla 13°58>0» N, 33°34>60" E) Sinnar State, Sudan [20]. Oxford University Museum of Natural History was the depository of the prototype *L. omeri* (Figure 1).

b) Eighteen species of ants were recorded for the first time in Sudan from 26 localities (Table 1).



Figure 1: A worker of Lepisiota omeri.

Table 1: Ant's species recorded for the first time in Sudan.

Species	Location	
Camponotus rhamses (Santschi)	Khartoum, 15.58° N 32.53° E	
	Singa, 13°08'32.11" N 33°35'31.27"E	
Camponotus rufogalaucus (Jerdon)	Khartoum, 15.58° N 32.53° E	
	Damazin, 11°46′31″ N 34°21′10″ E	
Camponotus liengmet (Forel)	Dalanj, 11°52'59.83" N 29°42'02.17" E	
	Sinnar, 13°33>N 033°37>E.	
Camponotus oasium (Forel)	Wd Medani, 14°39'31"N, 33°53'92" E.	
	Alrhad, 11°56′60″ N 27°25′60″ E	
	Nyala, 12°2'11N 24°52'37"E	
Catagluphis adyssinicus (Forel)	Msawrat, 16°21'32.66" N 33°19'46.71" E	
	Arkaweet, 18°60'0" N 37°17'0" E	
	Dordape, 11°56'60" N 27°25'60" E	
Catagluphis franchettii (Menozzi)	Abu Dlaig 15°53'47.27"N 33°49'41.18" E	
	Abu Dlaig 15°53'47.27"N 33°49'41.18" E	
	Sinnar, 13°33'N 033°37'E	
Catagluphis oasium (Lush)	Solob, 20°26'15.37" N 30°19'51.81" E	

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Lepisiota affinis (Santschi)	Wd Medani, 14°39'31"N, 33°53'92" E.		
Lepisiota palpalis (Santschi)	Kosti, 13.2° N 32.7° E		
Lepisiota omeri (Taylor)	Haj Abd Alla, 13°58'0"N 33°34'60"E		
Paratrechina hagemanni (Forel)	Wd AlHdad, 13°49'12.06"N33°32'31.53" E		
Monomorium subopacum (Smith)	Shada, 20°08'32.11" N 30°15'3.37" E		
Monomorium niloticum (Emery)	Kosti, 13.2° N 32.7° E		
Messor ruginodis (Stitz)	Gedarif, 14°66'37.54" N 35°34'36.65" E		
	Sinnar, 13°33'N 033°37'E		
	Abba island, 13°10'0469"N 32°41'36.69"E		
	Port Sudan, 19.57° N 37.27° E		
Pheidole escherichii (Forel)	Haj Abd Alla, 13°58'0"N 33°34'60"E		
	Shada, 20°08'32.11" N 30°15'3.37" E		
	Damazin, 11°46′31″ N 34°21′10″ E		
Pachycondyla ruginota (Stitz)	Wd AlHdad, 13°49'12.06"N33°32'31.53" E		
	Toshka, 20°46′ 01.88″ N 30°18′50.14″ E		
	WdAlAbas, 13°46' 34.31"N 33°38'39.33"E		
	Salara, 12°00'20.69" N 29°43'13.00"E		
	Al Maced, 15°15′26″N 32°57′24″ E		
Pachycondyla analis (Fabricius)	Abbasiya, 12°1'9.01" N 27°58'3.17" E		
Dorylus eurous (Emery)	Al Bagair, 15°37′05″N 32°75′77″ E		

*c) Pachycondyla ruginota* was most diverse and was encountered in 10 localities, followed by *Catagluphis adyssinicus* in 5 localities.

#### Parasites of freshwater fishes

Parasitological surveys of freshwater fishes of the Sudan during 2006 to 2014 revealed the following:

a) Four genera of parasitic crustacean were record. These were *Argulus, Ergasilus, Lamproglena* and *Lernaea* and 12 species new for science were documented. Forty two species belonging to 19 monogenean genera parasites were collected from 26 fish species [3].

b) The monogenean genera identified are: Annulotrema, Bagrobdella, Bouxiella, Characidotrema, Cichlidogyrus, Dactylogyrus, Diplectanum, Diplozoon, Dogielius, Enterogyrus, Gyrodactylus, Heterobothrium, Heteronchocleidus, Onchobdella, Protoancylodiscoides, Schilbetrema, Scutogyrus, Synodontella and Quadriacanthus [3].

c) Seven species (four new) of *Quadriacanthus* were collected from the gills of three species of catfishes from the Nile River Basin (Sudan). These were as follows: *Quadriacanthus aegypticus* El-Naggar and Serag, 1986, *Quadriacanthus clariadis* Paperna, 1961, *Quadriacanthus fornicatus* n. sp., *Quadriacanthus pravus* n. sp., and *Quadriacanthus zuheiri* n. sp. from *Clarias gariepinus* (Clariidae); *Quadriacanthus mandibulatus* n. sp. from *Heterobranchus bidorsalis* (Clariidae); and *Quadriacanthus bagrae* Paperna, 1979 from *Bagrus docmak* (Bagridae), [21]. Parasitological survey of *Labeo* (Cyprinidae) *horie* and *L. niloticus* 

at Kosti (White Nile) and Sinnar (Blue Nile) in Sudan revealed the presence of ten species of *Dactylogyrus* and three species of *Dogielius*.

d) The *Dactylogyrus* species found were *Dactylogyrus nathaliae* Guégan; *D. rastellus* Guégan, *D. retroversus; D. senegalensis, D. yassensis* in addition to five unidentified *Dactylogyrus* sp. 1, sp. 2, sp. 3, sp.4 and species 5. They. The genus *Dogielius* was represented by *Dogielius flosculus* Guégan which was redescriped; *Dogielius sennarensis* identified as n. sp. *L. niloticus* from Sinnar, and one undescribed *Dogielius* species. All dactylogyrid species in this study represent new host and geographical records [5].

e) Studies of the species of Characidotrema (Monogenea: Dactylogyridae) and reported from *Brycinus nurse: Characidotrema brevipenis, C. nursei, C. spinivaginus, C. zelotes* and the new species *Characidotrema pollex* n. sp from Kosti and Sinnar [22]. The morphology of *Schilbetrema* spp. from Sudan, complemented with molecular analyses of nuclear ribosomal DNA sequence data (28S, 18S and ITS-rDNA), is still under evaluation. Eleven *Schilbetrema* species have been distinguished. Phylogenetic analysis showed division of *Schilbetrema* species into two main clades corresponding to host species (A–*Schilbe intermedius* and *S. uranoscopus; S. mystus*) [22].

f) Most of the monogenean and crustacean parasites were attached to the gills than to the fins and body surface. Two monogenean species belonging to the genus *Enterogyrus* were found even in stomach [3].

g) To the Sudan helminthes *Barsonella lafoni* was added as a new genus and species of Proteocephalidean (Cestoda) from Clarias catfishes was based on material from Tarkana Lake (Kenya) and Wadi Halfa, Lake Nubia, Sudan [24]. Redescription of the following cestodes: *Proteocephalus sulcatus* of *Clarotes laticeps* [25], *Sandonella sandoni* [26], Tapeworms of *Synodontis* spp., [27], *Proteocephalus glanduligerus* from *Clarias* catfishes [28] and revision on *Wenyonia* spp. from catfishes was based on material from Khartoum and Kosti [29]. The presence of the cestode *Monobothrioides tchadensis*, from *Auchenoglanis* sp. from Kosti and the digenetic *Clinostomum complanatum* larva, from *Heterotis niloticus* from Khartoum were confirmed.

h) Nematodes of some freshwater of Sudan and two new species were added [30]. The new species were: *Cucullanus mormyri* sp. n. from *Mormyrus caschive* from Kosti (White Nile) and *Procamallanus (Spirocamallanus) pseudospiralis* sp. n. from *Synodontis schall* from Khartoum, and *S. frontosus, S. nigrita* and *S. schall* from Khashm el Girba (Atbara River). Other 10 species were described. These were *Falcaustra* (*=Spironoura*) *hexapapillata, Falcaustra sudanensis, Falcaustra similis, Cucullanus barbi,Cucullanus baylisi, Cithariniella, Multicaecum heterotis, Camallanus longicaudatus, Paracamallanus cyathopharynx, Spinitectus polli, in addition to <i>Contracaecum sp.* Third stagelarvae Type 2 and *Capillariidae* gen. sp. [30].

i) Taxonomic evaluation was made on the basis of both morphometrical observation and molecular methods and constituted the material of 10 publications [3-5, 21 to 30].

j) Material collected in 2014 is still under identification process.

#### **Freshwater fishes**

Moritz et al. [6] reported from Kosti (White Nile) an apparently undescribed *Haplochromis* species. They also noted a marked variance in *Sarotherodon galilaeus* populations. Specimens from Makhaleif and Kosti differ clearly in head contour, overall body shape and colouration pattern from standard Nilo-Sudanian S. galilaeus commonly occurring in the White Nile and elsewhere. They reported *Enteromius macrops* for the first time from the Nile Basin and confirmed the first record of *Paradistichodus dimidiatus* in the Nile system made by [3]. The mormyrid species *Cyphomyrus petherici* and *Petrocephalus keatingii*, as well as the small mochokid *Mochokus brevis* are new locality record for the White Nile [6]. *Coptodon zilli* is a new locality record for Lake Nubia [31].

#### Birds of lake nubia

The survey of birds of Lake Nubia (21°00'00" and 22°00.00"N, 30°30'00" and 31°30'00" E) was made in 2015 by [7] recorded 32 species falling into 13 families, while 41 species falling into 14 families were recorded by [32].

The following six species *Pelecanus onocrotalus, Phalacrocorax africanus, Ciconia ciconia, Platalea leucorodia* (Figure 2), *Haliaetus vocifer* and *Pluvianus aegyptius* were recorded for the first time from Lake Nubia.



Figure 2: Platalea leucorodia, a Palearctic Eurasian Spoonbill.

Table 2: Lake Nubia Birds (1=[32], 2=[7]).

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English Name	Scientific Name	Status	1	2
Family: Pelecanidae				
White Pelican	Pelecanus onocrotalus	М		+
Pink-backed Pelican	Pelecanus rufescens	RB	+	+
Family: Phalacrocoracidae				
Greater Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	М	+	+
Reed Cormorant	Phalacrocorax africanus	М		+
Family: Anhingidae				
Darter	Anhingus rufa	RB	+	+

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Family: Ardeidae				
Little Bittren	Ixobrychus minutus	RB/P	+	+
Grev Heron	Ardea cinerea	RB/P	+	+
Goliath Heron	Ardea aoliath	RB	+	+
Purple Heron	Ardea nurnurea	RB/P	+	+
Squacco Heron	Ardeola ralloides	RB/P	+	
Cattle Egret	Rubulcus ibis	MB/P	+	+
Great White Egret	Earetta alba	Р	+	+
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	RB/P	+	+
Night heron	Nucticorax nucticorax	RB/P	+	
	Family: Ciconiidae	100/1		
Abdim;s Stork	Ciconia abdimi	MB	+	+
White Stork	Ciconia ciconia	PW		+
Yellow-billed Stork	Myceria ibis	MB	+	
Glossy Ibis	Pleadis flacinellus	Р	+	
	Family Threskiornithidae	-		
Eurasian Spoonbill	Platalea leucorodia	RB/P		+
	Family: Phoeniconteridae	100/1		
Lesser Flamingo	Phoeniconterus minor	N/A	+	+
Greator Flamingo	Phoeniconterus ruher	PM	+	+
	Family: Antidae	1 1/1		
White-faced Whistling Duck	Dendrocyana viduata	MP	+	+
Fountian Goose	Alonochen gegynticanus	MP	+	+
Pintail	Anas acuta	PW	+	
Shoveler	Anas chineata	PW		
Tool	Anas crocca			
Carganov	Anas averavedula			
Gaiganey	Family: Accinitoridae	I VV	Ŧ	
ramily: Accipiteridae				
African Fich Fagle	Haliaetus vocifer	RP		+
Rlack Kite	Mihus migrans	MB /DW/		· ·
Diack Kite	Family Pandiannidaa	MD/FW	Ŧ	т
0,000,000	Pandion baliatous	DM		
Osprey	Family Pallidae	PVV	+	+
Maarhan	Callinula chloronus	DIAZ		
Little Creke	Borgana narva	D		- T
Cost	Eulice stre	r DM/	+	-
Cool	Function deside a	PW	+	
Egyntian Ployer	Pluvianus acountius	MB		+
Snur-winged Dover	Vanellus eninocue	RR	+	'
Spur-wingeu i lovei	Family Laridae	ND ND	r	г
				+
Little Cull		DV	۲ ـ	
White-winged Black Torn	Chlidonias louconterus	DW/	۲ ـ	
White-Whigeu Diack ICIII	onnaonnus reacopter us	1 11	'	· ·

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Gull-billed Tern	Sterna nilotica	PW	+	
Little Tern	Sterna albifrons	N/A	+	+
Roseate Tern	Sterna dougallii	N/A	+	
Common Tern	Sterna hirundo	Р	+	
Eurasian Swift	Apus apus	Р	+	+
Family: Alcedinidae				
Pied Kingfisher	Ceryle rudis	RB	+	+
Eurasian Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis	PW	+	+

B =Breeding record confirmed; M=Migrant including on passage through this country; P=breeds in Palearctic; R=Resident; V=Vagrant and W=winters (non-breeding season), N/A= information not available.

According to IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (http:// www.iucnredlist.org, 2012) all the birds listed in Table 2 are categorized as least concern (ver 3.1). The list given in Table 2 included [32] data as well.

Lake Nubia provides food for a considerable number of bird

species. Based on [33] the birds of Lake Nubia can be divided into: aquatic plants feeders such as the White faced Whistling Duck; aquatic insects' feeders such as Swifts; invertebrate's feeders such as migrant waders and railsn; piscivores such as Osprey and kingfishers (Figure 3). Cattle Egret is partially dependant on aquatic food [34].



Figure 3: Ceryle rudis a Kingfisher.

The plans for future work include collection of faunal material from other localities, especially those inaccessible for the time being.

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