This paper deals with the fishes of river Poonpun a tributary of river Ganges. The river was surveyed from its origin to its confluence with the Ganges. Altogether 60 species were recorded and studied.

Introduction

Complete faunistic surveys of a river from its origin to its confluence are very few. Hamilton’s (1822) work of "Fish Ganges" is pioneering and monumental. He surveyed the whole river Ganges and its tributaries and described 272 species. Later many authors (Hora, 1949, 1953; Sinha and Shiromony, 1953; David, 1954; Jhingram, 1956; Motwani and David, 1957; Karmchandani, 1962; Menon, 1962; Mahajan, 1965; Menon and Venkateswarlu, 1974) surveyed other rivers but they are confined to a particular stretch of a river and of a sporadic nature. There seems to be no account of faunistic survey of any single river system from its origin to its confluence, especially of Bishar State.

With this view the faunistic survey of river Poonpun was undertaken by the author during January – 1971. The river was surveyed from its origin upto Obra in the downstream. The lower stretch of the river has been surveyed during the intensive surveys of Gangetic Plains Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, Patna.

Collections were made at various localities by operating cast net. Collection spots are shown in the map. The fishes are deposited in the museum of Gangetic Plains Regional Station, Zoological survey of India, Patna.
ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION OF RIVER POONPUN

The river Poonpun originates from hill ranges situated 5 Km south of village Tanrwa in Nabinagar Taluq, Gaya District, Bihar State. This hill range is the border area between the districts of Gaya and Palamau. The catchment area of the river is very wide on the hill ranges. Water flows down from the hills in many channels and a few of them coalesce to form a well defined river. The river is a narrow channel at a place called Gajanan Kund at the foot hills and slowly it opens to attain a width of about 5 meters at Tanrwa, 5 km down from the origin. At Nabinagar which is about 25 km from the origin, the river attains a width of about 35 meters.

After flowing through the Gaya district, it enters Patna district near Shahzadpur. The river is joined by tributories Morhar, Dardha and Dhoa in Patna district. The river retains water throughout the year, but except in the rains it is useless for purposes of navigation owing to the number of irrigation channels which it supplies with water in the districts of Gaya and Patna. So much of the water is thus diverted that, except in times of high flood, only a small portion reaches the Ganges. The river joins Ganges at Fatwah about 20 km east of Patna, after flowing for about 90 km in Patna district.

During the monsoon a large volume of water is discharged that the surrounding area always gets inundated causing a lot of ravage. In 1967 the banks of the river breached at several places and water entered even Patna city submerging many low lying areas.

The most important characteristic feature of the river is that it always meanders. Bottom is sandy or muddy or with loam, and never rocky except near the place of origin. The river is comparatively shallow in the upper reaches but deep in the lower reaches. It attains maximum width and depth at its confluence with Ganges near Fatwah.

The position of river Poonpun amongst other major rivers in Bihar, was shown in Text Fig. 1. The course of the complete river along with collection localities is shown in Text Fig. 2.

List of localities

The list of localities is given below arranged from confluence to the origin.

1. Fatwah
2. Gowrichak
3. Punpun
4. Rajghat Nawadah
5. Pithbhans
6. Obra
7. Jamhor
8. Ghora
9. Siris
10. Siris Bridge
11. Tetaria
12. Reur
13. Sonaura
14. Bela
15. Nuniyabigha
16. Itwa
17. Nabinagar
18. Raghunathганj
19. Moji Mahasu
20. Khajuri
21. Tanrwa
Fig. 1. Showing river Poonpun along with other major rivers in Bihar State
Order: **CLUPEIFORMES**

Family: *Clupeidae*

1. *Goniaiosa manmina* (Ham.)


Distribution. India: throughout except Deccan, southern and western India; Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh and Ceylon.
2. **Gudusia chapra** (Ham.)


Distribution. India: freshwaters throughout as far south as the Krishna river, but absent from Malabar and Madras; Elsewhere; Pakistan, Bangladesh and Penang.

Remarks. *Clupea suhia* Chaudhuri and *Gudusia godanahiai* Srivatava are synonyms of this species (Whitehead, 1972). Whitehead (1972) states that the relationship of this form to *G. variegata* (Day) of Burma needs investigation.

3. **Ilisha motius** (Blkr.)


Distribution. India: Brahmaputra river, Assam, Pulta, Ganges mouth, W. Bengal, Orissa; Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh.

Order: *CYPRINIFORMES*

Family: *Cyprinidae*

Sub Family: *Abramidinae*

4. **Chela laubuca** (Ham.)


Material. Fatwah, 15.5.68 – 1 ex., 2.5.70 – 7 exs., Rajghat Nawadah, 9.1.69 – 2 exs.

Distribution. India: fresh waters of Assam, W. Bengal, Orissa, Central India; Elsewhere: Bangladesh, Pakistan, Burma, Ceylon, Sumatra, Siam.

Remarks. It is larvicidal fish.

5. **Oxygaster bacaila** (Ham.)

1882. *Cyprinus bacaila* Hamilton, *Fish Ganges*: 265, 384, pl. 8, fig. 76. Type-locality: fresh water rivers of all the Gangetic provinces.


Distribution. India: throughout except Malabar, Travancore, Cochin, Mysore and Madras; Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh.

Remarks. This is the common species occurring throughout the length of the river.

6. *Oxygaster gora* (Ham.)


Distribution. India: fresh waters of Assam, W. Bengal, Punjab, U.P., Bihar, Orissa; Elsewhere: Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Sub Family: Rasborinae

7. *Barilius barila* (Ham.)


Distribution. India: fresh waters of Assam, Manipur, W. Bengal, Delhi, U.P., Bihar, Orissa, M.P. and Mysore states; Elsewhere: Bangladesh.

8. *Barilius bandelisis* (Ham.)


9. *Barilius bola* (Ham.)


Material. Fatwah, 2.6.67 – 4 exs.

Distribution. India, fresh waters of Assam, W. Bengal, Punjab, U.P., Bihar and Orissa states; Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma.

Sub Family: Cyprininae

10. *Aspidoparia morar* (Ham.)

1822. *Cyprinus morar* Hamilton, Fish. Ganges: 264, 381, pl. 31, fig. 75. Type-locality: rivers Yamuna and Tista, two large but distant branches of Ganges.


Material. Fatwah, 7.8.67 – 2 exs., 2.5.70 – 2 exs., Rajghat Nawadah, 9.1.69 – 4 exs.
Distribution. India: freshwaters throughout except western coast and south of the river Krishna; Elsewhere: W. Punjab, Bangladesh, Burma, Siam.

11. *Catla catla* (Ham.)


Distribution. India: freshwaters throughout, down south to the Krishna river; Elsewhere: W. Punjab, Bangladesh, Burma and Ceylon.

Remarks. It is an important food fish. Only two specimens were obtained from one locality, Bela.

12. *Cirrhina mrigala* (Ham.)

1822. *Cyprinus mrigala* Hamilton, Fish. Ganges: 279, 386, pl. 6, fig. 79. Type-locality: ponds and fresh water rivers of Gangetic provinces.


Material. Bela, 23.1.71 - 1 ex.


Remarks. Only one example was obtained from Bela.

13. *Crossocheilus latius latius* (Ham.)


Material. Fatwah, 7.8.67 - 10 exs., Siris Bridge, 17.1.71 - 1 ex, Tetaria, 20.1.71 - 1 ex.

Distribution. India: hill streams from plains level to 2000 ft. of U.P., Bohar, West Bengal, Deccan; Elsewhere: Bangladesh.

14. *Labeo bata* (Ham.)


15. *Labeo boga* (Ham.)


Distribution. India: Fresh waters of Punjab, U.P. Bihar, Darjeeling Dt., West Bengal, Orissa, Madras; Elsewhere: W. Punjab, Bangladesh, Burma.

16. *Labeo boggut* (Sykes)


17. *Labeo calbasu* (Ham.)

1822. *Cyprinus calbasu* Hamilton, Fish Ganges: 297, 387, pl. 2, fig. 83. Type-locality: rivers and ponds of Bengal and in the western provinces.


Distribution. India: Fresh waters of Punjab, U.P., Bihar, Darjeeling, Dt., Assam, W. Bengal, Orissa, down south to the Krishna river, Ahmedabad, Cutch, Bombay, Deccan, Malabar, Madras; Elsewhere: W. Punjab, Bangladesh, Burma, Siam, Yunnan.

Remarks. It is an important food and game fish.

18. *Labeo dero* (Ham.)

1822. *Cyprinus dero* Hamilton, Fish. Ganges: 277, 385, pl. 17, fig. 78.


19. *Labeo pangusia* (Ham.)


Distribution. India: Fresh waters from Punjab to Assam, Himalayam ranges and Deccan; Elsewhere: Sind.

20. *Labeo rohita* (Ham.)


Remarks. It is an important food fish.
21. *Osteobrama cotio* (Ham.)


Distribution. India: fresh waters throughout except Malabar and south of Krishna; Elsewhere: W. Punjab, Bangladesh, Burma, China.

22. *Puntius amphibia* (V.)


Material. Fatwah, 2.6.67 - 1 ex., 2.5.70 - 5 exs., Rajghat Nawadah, 10.12.68 - 12 exs., 9.1.69 - 125 exs., Pithbhans, 27.11.68 - 1 ex., Siris Bridge, 17.1.71 - 1 ex.

Distribution. India: fresh waters of U.P., Orissa, Madras, Central India, Deccan, Mysore, M.P., Travancore-Cochin, Bombay, Western coast of India; Elsewhere: Ceylon.

23. *Puntius conchonius* (Ham.)


24. *Puntius sarana* (Ham.)


Distribution. India: Fresh waters through out; Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Ceylon, Siam, China.

25. *Puntius sophore* (Ham.)


Distribution. India: freshwaters throughout; Elsewhere: W. Punjab, Bangladesh, Burma, China.

26. Puntius ticto (Ham.)

1822. Cyprinus ticto Hamilton, Fish. Ganges: 314, 389, pl. 8, fig. 87. Type-locality: southeastern parts of Bengal.


Distribution. India: Fresh waters throughout; Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Ceylon, Siam.

Family: Cobitidae

27. Noemacheilus botia (Ham.)


Distribution. India: fresh waters of Punjab, U.P., Western Himalayas; Darjeeling Dt., W. Bengal, Eastern Himalayas, Assam, Bihar; Elsewhere: W. Punjab, Bangladesh.

Family: Siluridae

28. Ompok bimaculatus (Bloch)

1797. Silurus bimaculatus Bloch, Syst. Ichth., 11: 17, pl. 369, Type-locality: Malabar.


29. Wallago attu (Bl. et Schn.)


Family: Bagridae

30. Aorichthys aor (Ham.)


Material. Fatwah, 7.8.67 – 1 ex.


31. Aorichthys seenghala (Sykes)


Type-locality: Mota Mola river at Poona.


Material. Fatwah, 7.8.67 – 1 ex., 2.5.70 – 1 ex., Pithbhans, 27.11.68 – 1 ex.


32. Mystus bleekeri (Day)


Distribution. India: fresh waters of Punjab, Darjeeling Dt., W. Bengal, Assam, Baroda, Jamuna, and upper waters of the Ganges; Elsewhere: Sind, Burma, Malaya.

33. Mystus cavasius (Ham.)

1822. Pimelodus cavasius Hamilton, Fish. Ganges: 203, 379, pl. 11, fig. 6. Type-locality: larger fresh water rivers of Gangetic provinces.


Distribution. Fresh waters of Punjab, U.P., Bihar, Darjeeling Dt., W. Bengal, Assam, Orissa, M.P., Madras, Mysore, Ahmedabad, Baroda, Bombay, Travancore-Cochin; Elsewhere: fresh waters of Sind, W. Punjab, Bangladesh, Burma, Siam, Malay Archipelago, China.

34. Mystus gulio (Ham.)

1822. Pimelodus gulio Hamilton, Fish. Ganges: 201, 379, pl. 23, fig. 6. Type-locality: higher parts of the Gangetic estuaries where the water is not very salt.


Material. Fatwah, 16.11.66 – 1 ex., 6.7.67 – 2 exs., Siris, Bridge, 17.1. – 1 ex.

Distribution. India: seas, estuaries and tidal waters of W. Bengal, Orissa, Madras, Travancore-Cochin, Malabar, Bombay; Elsewhere: seas, estuaries and tidal waters of Sind, Bangladesh, Burma, Ceylon, Malaya, Malay Archipelago, Siam.
35. Mystus vittatus (Bloch)

1797. Silurus vittatus Bloch, Ichth., zool.,: 371, fig. 2. Type-locality: Tranquebar.


Family: Sisoridae

36. Bagarius bagarius (Ham.)


Material. Ghora, 17.1.71 -- 1 ex.

Distribution. India: fresh waters of Delhi, U.P., Bihar, Darjeeling Dt., W. Bengal, Manipur, Assam, Orissa, Poona, Deccan; Elsewhere: Burma, Malay Archipelago, Siam, Indo-China.

37. Gagata sexualis Tilak


Type-locality: Daltonganj, Bihar.


Distribution. India: Bihar.

38. Gagata viridescena (Ham.)


Type-locality: N. Bengal.


Distribution. India: North Bengal, Delhi, Poona.

39. Glyptothorax telchitta (Ham.)


Material. Obra, 18.1.71 -- 2 exs.


40. Hara hara (Ham.)


Material. Fatwah, 16.11.66 – 1 ex.

41. *Sisor rhabdophorus* Ham.
1889. *Sisor rhabdophorus* Day, Fauna Brit. India, Fish, 1: 105, 106, fig. 43.
Material. Fatwah, 16.11.66 – 1 ex., Rajghat Nawadah, 9.1.69 – 2 exs.
Distribution. India: rivers Ganges and Jamuna in N. India, Bihar and W. Bengal.

Family: *Schilbeidae*

42. *Ailia coila* (Ham.)

43. *Eutropiichthys vacha* (Ham.)

44. *Silonia silondia* (Ham.)
Material. Fatwah, 23.8.67 – 6 exs.

Order: *BELONIFORMES*
Family: *Belonidae*

45. *Xenentodon cancila* (Ham.)


Order: MUGILIFORMES
Family: Mugilidae

46. Rhinomugil corsula (Ham.)

1822. Mugil corsula Hamilton, Fish. Ganges: 221, 381, pl. 9, fig. 97. Type-locality: rivers of the Gangetic provinces and in the southern parts of Bengal.


Distribution. India: Punjab, Allahabad, Benares, Patna, Calcutta, Orissa; Elsewhere: W. Punjab, Bangladesh.

47. Sicamugil cascasia (Ham.)


Distribution. India: Delhi, upper waters of the Ganges and Jamuna, Kanpur, Allahabad, Benares, Patna, the Brahmaputra; Elsewhere: Ceylon.

Order: OPHIOCEPHALIFORMES
Family: Ophiocephalidae (Channidae)

48. Channa gachua (Bl. et Schn.)


49. Channa punctatus (Bloch)


Distribution. India: fresh waters of N. India; Elsewhere: Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Burma and Thialand.

Order: PERCIFORMES
Sub Order: Percoidae
Family: Centropomidae
50. Chanda nama


51. Chanda ranga
1822. Chanda ranga Hamilton, Fish. Ganges: 113, 371, pl. 16, fig. 38. Type-locality: fresh waters of all parts of the Gangetic provinces.


Distribution. India: fresh waters throughout; Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Siam.

Family: Sciaenidae
52. Pama pama (Ham.)

Distribution. India: Coasts of Cutch, Baroda, Bombay, Malabar, Travancore–Cochin, Coromandel, Madras, Orissa, W. Bengal; Elsewhere: Sind, Bangaldesh, Burma, Malaya, Malay Archipelago, Siam.

Sub Order: GOBIOIDEI
Family: Gobidae
53. Glossogobius giuris (Ham.)


Distribution. India: Fresh and brackish waters throughout; Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Ceylon, E. and S. coasts of Africa, Mauritius, Malaya, Malay Archipelago, Siam, China, Japan, Philippines, Melanesia, Polynesia, Australia.

Sub Order: *Anabantoidei*

Family: *Osphronemidae*

54. *Colisa fasciatus* (Bl. et Schn.)


Material. Fatwah, 16.11.66 – 10 exs.

Distribution. India: Coromandel coast as far south as the river Krishna, estuaries of the Ganges, Cachar, Assam, Punjab; Elsewhere: N.W. Provinces, Sind and Burma.

Order: *MASTOCEMBELIFORMES*

Family: *Mastocembelidae*

55. *Macrognathus aculeatus* (Bloch)


Material. Fatwah, 16.11.66 – 1 ex.

Distribution. India: Fresh and brackish waters throughout; Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Ceylon, Malaya, Malay Archipelago, Siam, Indo-china, China.

56. *Mastocembelus armatus* (Lacép.)


Distribution. India: Fresh and brackish waters throughout; Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Ceylon, Malaya, Thailand, and Hainan.

57. *Mastocembelus manipurensis* Hora

1921. *Mastocembelus manipurensis* Hora, Rec. Indian Mus., 22: 206, pl. 9, fig. 3.

Type-locality: Khurda stream, Manipur.

Material. Fatwah, 16.11.66 – 5 exs., 22.3.68 – 1 ex.

Distribution. India: Manipur and Bihar.
58. *Mastocembelus pancalus* (Ham.)


Distribution. India: Fresh and brackish waters throughout; Elsewhere: Pakistan, Bangladesh.

Order: **TETRODONTIFORMES**

Family: **Tetrodontidae**

59. *Chelonodon patoca* (Hamilton)


1955. *Chelondon patoca* Munro, The marine fresh water fishes of Ceylon: 282, pl. 55; fig. 821. Material. Fatwah, 2.5.70—1 ex.

Distribution. India: seas throughout; Elsewhere: to China,

60. *Tetraodon cutcutia* Ham.

1822. *Tetrodon cutcutia* Hamilton, Fish. Ganges: 8, 362, pl. 18, fig. 3. Type-locality: river Ganges.


Distribution. India: Fresh waters of Orissa, W. Bengal and Assam; Elsewhere: Bangladesh.

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**REFERENCES**


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RYBY RZEKI POONPUN (BIHAR, INDIA)

Streszczenie

Autor daje zestawienie 60 gatunków ryb występujących w rzecze Poonpun, dopływ rz. Ganges. Ryby należą do 16 rodzin następujących rzędów: Clupeiformes, Cypriniformes, Beloniformes, Mugiliformes, Ophiocephaliformes, Perciformes, Masticembeliformes i Tetrodontiformes.

T. Венкатесварлу

РЫБЫ РЕКИ ПООНПУН (БИХАР, ИНДИЯ)

Резюме

Автор проводит сведения об 60 видах рыб, обитающих в реке Поонпун — притоке Ганга. Рыбы относятся к 16 семействам в следующих отрядах: Clupeiformes, Cypriniformes, Beloniformes, Mugiliformes, Ophiocephaliformes, Perciformes, Masticembeliformes и Tetrodontiformes.