

Freshwater Ornamental Fish of Bihar



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CIFRI

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FORWORD

The state of Bihar is endowed with vast and varied inland aquatic resources viz. Rivers, canals, reservoirs, ox-bow lakes, flood plain lakes, ponds and tanks. Fishing and fish culture is traditionally practiced in rural areas of the state and a large number of population in general and fishers in particular depend on fisheries, aquaculture and allied activities for their livelihood and nutritional security. The state has huge underutilized and untapped fisheries resources which offer immense potential for fish production. Ornamental fisheries is one of the emerging sector which has the potential to ameliorate socio-economic condition of the rural community. Ornamental or aquarium fishes form not only an important commercial component of fisheries but also provide aesthetic value and help in upkeep of the environment.

However, our contribution to world trade of ornamental fish is negligible. Presently about 210 species of indigenous ornamental fishes are being exported to different countries of the world. Bihar is one of the state which has a series of small aquarium fishes viz. colisa, loaches puntius, glass fish, eels etc., found in maun, chauras, canals and river systems of West Champaran, East Champaran, Sitamarhi, Muzaffarpur, Madhubani, Rohtas and Bhojpur districts. These fishes are rich in nutrient value and also have ornamental values. But, the knowledge of their distribution pattern, behavior, population characteristics, diversity, captive breeding is lacking. Therefore, it is essential to organize and develop the sector with a view to provide employment to rural youth and women and strengthen the economy of the state. The effort is made to enlist and identify ornamental fishes from different districts of Bihar.

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PREFACE

Fisheries sector plays very important role in the food and nutritional security, employment generation, forex earnings and thus contributes substantially to the national economy. Among wild fishes, considerable numbers of fishes are very attractive and may be recognized as ornamental fishes. They are also called "The Living Jewels" as they create superb scope for potential aqua global trade worth million dollars. The keeping of ornamental fish is the second largest hobby in the world next to photography. The top exporting country is Singapore followed by Hong-Kong, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Indonesia, and India. The largest importer of ornamental fish is U.S.A. followed by Europe and Japan. The emerging markets are China and South-Africa. India's contribution is negligible to export market of ornamental fish but has potential to emerge as one of the major contributor.

The state is endowed with network of rivers, substantial length of irrigation canals, ox-bow lakes, reservoirs and vast low-lying areas. Almost all the districts of north and south Bihar, barring high flood prone areas, can be considered for aquaculture. The water bodies are blessed with untapped potential of ornamental fish resource, especially in North-Bihar where the natural resources of indigenous ornamental fishes are very rich and diversified when compared to the South-Bihar. In spite of the fact that the freshwater habitats of Bihar abound many varieties of ornamental fishes, only very few of them have been introduced to international market. The knowledge of distribution pattern, habitat characteristics, adaptive behavior, population structure and biodiversity status are imperative for conservation and development of various captive breeding techniques.

Sampling surveys were conducted in wetland, canal and river system of West Champaran, East Champaran, Sitamarhi, Muzaffarpur, Madhubni, Rohats, Bhojpur, Kaimur and Buxar districts of Bihar. The specimens were collected using drag net, cast net, scoop net and other local fishing equipment. Visual observations were also carried out depending on the clarity of water, compatibility with other fishes, retention of color, appearance of diseases, type of aquatic plant available, plankton, food intake, while estimating the distribution of fish abundance. The collected fishes were transported in live condition and kept in aquarium of Government Fish farm, Bettiah. All the collected species from different ecosystems of Bihar were identified and more than 79 species were designated as ornamental fishes. The study included identification of the fish species, distribution pattern, color and shape, size of body, compatibility with other fish species, behavior under captive condition, and breeding behavior.

Hope the book will be useful for the entrepreneurs and planners to prepare a road map for development of ornamental fisheries in Bihar. Authors acknowledge the guidance and support received during the preparation of this book.

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1. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Puntius phutunio
(Hamilton & Buchanan, 1822)

COMMON NAME

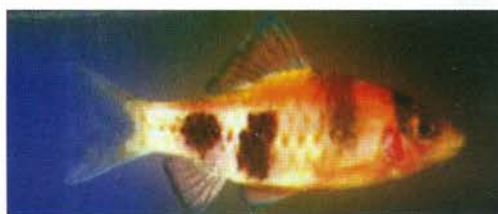
Dwarf barb, Spotted barb

LOCAL NAME

Pothia, Kali Dhaba Pothia.

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cyprinidae
Sub-family	Cyprininae
Genus	<i>Puntius</i>
Species	<i>phutunio</i>



Puntius phutunio

Habits and habitat

It is found in ponds, tanks, floodplain area, chaur, beel and ditches. Also found in rivers and canals, slow flowing water with weeds, in Sitamarhi, Dharbhanga, Madhubani, Samastipur, Muzaffarpur and other districts of Bihar. Dark bar with a dusky, pectoral fins hyaline and other fins are light orange. This species moves in group and is fast mover. It is found attached to the substratum. It feeds on plant matter, aquatic insect, worms and daphnia. It breeds in early monsoon season at temperature 25-26°C. It attains a length of 10cm.

Salient features

This species known as dwarf barb is characterised with a restricted distribution in the stream of Gandak river and its canals. It is very beautiful and attractive due to the presence of glittering silvery scales. Grey green with a brilliant emerald green shine on the scales of head and back. Belly is silvery white. It has two black blotch, one above the anal fin, along the dorsal fin and second as a spot on caudal peduncle. Dorsal fin often with an oblique

2. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Puntius chola
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Swamp barb

LOCAL NAME

Sidhari

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cyprinidae
Sub-family	Cyprinae
Genus	<i>Puntius</i>
Species	<i>chola</i>



Puntius chola

Habits and habitat

It is found in ponds, tanks, maun, chaur and floodplain area. Inhabits in rivers and it is associated canals. Also found in running and standing water with muddy and planted bottom. It is very common species in Bihar.

Salient features

It is very fancy and attractive species due to the presence of glittering silvery scales with varied tints and emitting flashes during movement. The body is flattened and pointed. Dorsal part of body is golden brownish green with a brilliant emerald green shine in the scales of the head and belly silvery brown. A deep black blotch in diamond shape at the base of caudal fin. Caudal fin is round. Other fins hyaline or delicate yellowish. pelvic and anal fins become deep orange in mature males. It feeds on small aquatic insects, plant matter, worms and larvae. It is fast mover and voracious feeder. Always moves in group. It has been found that several female ripe at the same time. They may breed with an equal or a greater number of males. Normal breeding temperature is about 24-25°C. It attains a length of 7cm.

3. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Puntius conchoni
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Rosy barb

LOCAL NAME

Pothia, Lal pothi, Kanchan pothi

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cyprinidae
Sub-family	Cyprininae
Genus	<i>Pethia</i>
Species	<i>conchoni</i>



Pethia conchoni

Habits and habitat

It is found in ponds, tanks, maun, chaur and ditches with muddy bottom. It occurs in rivers, canals and inundated field. It is found in flowing and standing water, prefers deep flowing water area with plants. It is found everywhere in Bihar.

Salient features

This is known as rosy barb and is acclaimed as one of the beautiful species in the barb group. It has a very attractive uniform silvery colouration with shining olive green back belly is silvery with reddish tinge in monsoon season. The species has pink red colour in breeding season. A deep slightly ocellated black golden yellow bordered blotch on caudal peduncle at level trailing edges of caudal fin. It has already secured a position in the list of ornamental fishes being exported from the country. This is very bright and beautiful, move in group. It is one of the hardiest of the barb. It is very impressive in colour during matting period. It feeds on plant matter, small insects, worms, plankton and small fishes. It breeds in early monsoon month of June and July at temperature 25-26°C. It attains a length of 5cm.

4. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Puntius sophore
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Spot fin swamp barb

LOCAL NAME

Pothia

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cyprinidae
Genus	<i>Puntius</i>
Species	<i>sophore</i>



Puntius sophore

Habits and habitat

Occurs in Gnaga, Sone, Gandak rivers and associated canals and its branches. It is found in ponds, tanks, beels, chauras, etc. Inhabits in small reservoirs, ditches and floodplain area with muddy bottom and full of macrophytes. Mostly found in shallow and slow flowing water.

Salient features

It is beautiful and very attractive fish. Body is uniform silvery and back greyish green to brownish colouration with large deep black round blotch at base of caudal fin and a similar black blotch on central part of dorsal fin. All fins are normal but anal and pelvic fins of male are brick red at maturation period of male. It is very active and fast mover. It moves in group. It breeds in April-May at temperature 24-25°C. It feeds on insect, plant matters, algae, larvae, worms and daphnia. It is mostly collected from canals and branch channels. It attains a length of normally 5-8 cm and maximum 13cm.

**5. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Pethia ticto
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Two spot barb

LOCAL NAME

Pothia

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cyprinidae
Sub family	Cyprininae
Genus	<i>Pethia</i>
Species	<i>ticto</i>



Pethia ticto

Habits and habitat

Occur in ponds, tanks, chauras, and beels. Inhabits in rivers, canals, and small reservoir. Mostly found in shallow water and muddy bottom with macrophytes in floodplain area and ditches of all the districts of Bihar.

Salient features

The species is the smallest of the barb family. It is the common species found in almost all water bodies. The body is silvery and back grey to grassy green and belly whitish with a discontinuous lateral line. A long transverse black blotch above the pectoral fin, another one is black large with golden edge spot on the caudal peduncle over the end of the anal fin. The fins are light red orange colour at breeding time. The dorsal fin is marked with dark black lines. It is very attractive and beautiful. This barb is very popular as aquarium fish. It is very active and moves in group. It takes shelter under leaves of plant or aquatic weeds. It feeds on plankton, insects larvae, algae and plant matter. It breeds normally at 24-26°C temperature. This species has established itself as one of the most expressive species in the international markets. It attains a length of 3-5cm.

**6. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Puntius terio
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

One spot barb

LOCAL NAME

Sehra pothia

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cyprinidae
Genus	<i>Puntius</i>
Species	<i>terio</i>



Puntius terio

Habits and habitat

Occurs in rivers, canals, and their branches with slow flowing water system. It is found in ponds, tanks, beels, mauns, ditches and small reservoir with muddy and sandy bottom. Inhabits in almost all districts of north Bihar and occasionally in Rohtas, Buxar, Ara, Aurangabad and other districts.

Salient features

This barb looks like *P. conconius* but differences can be noted by close observation. Reddish orange spot on the gill plate, distinct golden edged diamond shape black blotch over anal fin from which a dark line runs back to base of caudal fin, the dorsal fin is more pointed in the species. The male is yellowish all over the body and its anal and pelvic fin are touched with orange spot but the female is silvery with dorsally metallic green and clear fin. The male turns crushed strawberry red at mating time with a beautiful orange colour. Aquarists like this species and export to U.S.A. and other countries. The species breeds in April and later months. The fish is fast mover. It is bottom feeder, stays in low water level with plants. It is very attractive and peaceful fishes. It feeds on insects, algae, plant matters and small crustaceans. It attains a length of 9cm.

**7. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Pethia gelius
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Golden barb

LOCAL NAME

Sunahri pothia, Gilip pungti

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cyprinidae
Sub-family	Cyprininae
Genus	<i>Pethia</i>
Species	<i>gelius</i>



Pethia gelius

Habits and habitat

It is found in ponds, tanks, floodplain area, chaur, beels and small reservoirs with muddy and silted bottom. It occurs in rivers and canals. This species is reported in Patna, Vaishali, Begusarai, Madhubani, Sitamarhi, Champaran, and other districts of Bihar.

Salient features

This species is one of the smallest fish in the family. It is streamlined in shape and its body is sprinkled with black spots. The broad dark stripe along the brownish body and belly silvery white which gives this fish a pretty overall pattern. Caudal fin is delicate and reddish while other fins are clear with yellowish tints. It moves in group of few number. It is fast mover and shows moderate movement. It is mostly seen in north Bihar. Male is bigger than female. They breed in late summer season at temperature 26-27°C. It feeds on algae, plant matter, insects, larvae, and small crustaceans. This species eats its own eggs; It attains a length 2.5-3cm.

8. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Systomus sarana
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Olive barb

LOCAL NAME

Pothia

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cyprinidae
Sub-family	Cyprininae
Genus	<i>Systomus</i>
Species	<i>sarana</i>



Systomus sarana

Habits and habitat

It is found in ponds, tanks, maun, chaur, floodplain area, ditches with muddy and sandy bottom. It occurs in rivers, canals. This group of fish is found in entire Bihar but mostly found in districts of South Bihar.

Salient features

It is comparatively bigger sized fish of the family. This species is slightly cylindrical. This is very attractive and fancy due to the presence of glittering silvery and large uniform silvery colouration with transparent fins and more robust when mature. A distinct large round golden edged black blotch exists near caudal fin. It feeds on insects, crustaceans, larvae, algae, and plant matters. It breeds in submerged area, most of them are easily bred in favourable temperature range of 25 - 28 °C. It is fast mover, attains a length of 15-20cm.

**9. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Oreichthys cosuatis
(Hamilton, 1822)

ENGLISH NAME

High fin Barb

COMMON NAME

Pothi

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cyprinidae
Genus	<i>Oreichthyes</i>
Species	<i>cosuatis</i>



Oreichthys cosuatis

Habits and habitat

It is found in ponds, tanks, maun, chaur, flood plain area and ditches. Also found in rivers and canals with sandy and muddy bottom. It occurs in flowing and standing water system.

Salient features

Body is very bright and silver in colour. It has no spots on the body. The general colour of the scale is brilliant silvery with darker grey edges. Caudal fin and anal fin have dusky spot on the peduncle. Dorsal fin is high and marked with dark line. It is fast mover, surface and column feeder. It feeds on plankton, insects, larvae, and plant matters. They do not breed in captive condition. This fish has large eggs. Eggs frequently fall to the muddy bottom and attacked by fungus and therefore do not survive. The species breeds in pre monsoon season. It attains a length of 5-6cm.

**10. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Rasbora daniconius
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Darkline Rasbora

LOCAL NAME

Suti dhawahee

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cyprinidae
Sub-family	Rasborinae
Genus	<i>Rasbora</i>
Species	<i>daniconius</i>



Rasbora daniconius

Habits and habitat

It is found in beels, chauras, tanks and floodplain area. It occurs in rivers and canals with hard bottom. Also found in ditches, pools and stream. Inhabits in lotic and lentic water system. The species is recorded in Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Vaishali, Sitamarhi, Rohtas, Buxar, Ara, Aurangabad and other districts of Bihar. The fish is found in abundance around the degrading leaf litters, bushes, branches and aquatic weeds.

Salient features

It is not a colourful species. The body has greenish white colour with blue-black central body stripe, delicately edged above and below by a thin metallic golden line. Back is olive and belly is white. The fins are tinged with yellow. A narrow stripe on the body just above the anal fin is dark. The female is bigger in size than male. It is fast mover and hardy and active. It is attractive and well known aquarium fish. It feeds on insects, plant matters, daphnia, mosquito larvae, etc. In the absence of these, an occasional bit of minced earthworm or scraped fish is acceptable. This fish has large eggs, many of the eggs fall to the bottom and get destroyed. The young ones vary greatly in size and should be sorted out to prevent cannibalism. It prefers temperature of 20-25°C and pH 6.5. Breeding is not attempted in captive condition. This species is in high demand in international market. The fish is well suited for being kept in aquarium due to its small size. It attains a length of 13cm but normally found between 7-8 cm.

**11. SCIENTIFIC NAME***Rasbora rasbora*

(Hamilton, 1822)

ENGLISH NAME

Scissors tail Rosbora

LOCAL NAME

Dhawahee

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopteryg
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cyprinidae
Sub-family	Rasborinae
Genus	<i>Rasbora</i>
Species	<i>Rasbora</i>

*Rasbora rasbora***Habits and habitat**

It is found in tanks, ponds, reservoirs, chauras, beels, floodplain area. It occurs in rivers and canals. It is found in flowing and standing water system with muddy and sandy bottom. Mostly found in Rohtas, Bhojpur, Aurangabad, Patna, Vaishali and other districts of Bihar.

Salient features

It has greenish-white colour of the body, dorsal side of the body is olive brown and silvery colour below with a distinct blue black mid lateral stripe from head to base of caudal peduncle. The scales have grey edges. The male is slightly purple while the female is more greenish grey. Fins are clear and olive to yellowish in colour but caudal fin is sharply defined with hind margin. It attains a length of 7-8cm and reported length is 13-20cm. They will mature and breed at the length of about 7.5cm. The eggs are adhesive in nature, are attached to the under side of the leaf. They are normally bred in November to February at a temperature range 20-25°C. It requires slightly acidic water. It is fast mover. It feeds on aquatic insects, worms, shrimp, mosquito larvae and scraped fish. They move in groups. This species are depositing about 250 eggs on the leaves of the plant.

**12. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Acanthocobitis pavonaceus
(Meclelland, 1839)

COMMON NAME

Bihar loach, Horizontal stripe loach

LOCAL NAME

Nakhi, Baghi

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Balitoridae
Sub family	Nomacheilinae
Genus	<i>Acanthocobitis</i>
Species	<i>pavonaceus</i>



Acanthocobitis pavonaceus

Habits and habitat

They are found in rivers Ganga, Gandak, Sone and their canals. It prefers in sandy, gravel bottom of tanks. It occurs in submountain area with slow flowing water system, also found in chaur, beels, floodplain muddy area with plants. The species is reported from Rohtas, Bhojpur, Gaya, Aurangabad, Champaran, Sitamarhi, Muzaffarpur and other districts of Bihar. This is an endemic variety of Bihar, usually found in the high altitude area.

Salient features

Body is elongated cylindrical. It has olive to light yellowish colour of ground, with several brown-black strips runs parallel to lateral line along with head to tip of caudal peduncle. One parallel deep strip runs from middle of flank to both side, other above and below to this. There are three pairs of barbels, two pair on the upper and one pair is on the lower jaw. It is one of the best scavengers. Another set of bushy barbels adorns the mouth on obstinate little moustache; they are present on the movable spine below the eye. Caudal fin has several black dots in lines and dorsal fin have black dots in rays. It is very active at night and moves in groups, mostly found attached to the substratum. It has slow but curly movement. It feeds on algae, plankton, plant matter, larvae, insects and benthos. Also found at bottom of muddy channels with full of plants. It breeds in late summer. It attains a length of 5-7cm.

**13. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Acanthocobitis triangularis
(Day, 1865)

ENGLISH NAME

Triangular banded loach/ zodiac Loach

LOCAL NAME

Dhariwala Baghi

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Balitoridae
Sub family	Nemacheilinae
Genus	<i>Acanthocobitis</i>
Species	<i>triangularis</i>



Acanthocobitis triangularis

Habits and habitat

It is found in rivers, canals and mountain areas. Mostly found in Nepal originated canals spread out of the flood plain areas, sometimes reported in beels, chauras and tanks of district Kishanganj, Araria, Sitamarhi, and Champaran in Bihar. The species occurs in slow flowing water and still water.

Salient features

This fish is the most attractive variety in the loach group. Body is elongated and cylindrical with ventrally flattened shape. It has light golden yellowish or olive ground colour. It has 10-12 dark black vertical oblique bands. The black lateral line runs together along head to last caudal fin. Caudal fin has 3-4 row of black dots appearing as black line. Dorsal fin has 7-8 black bars with dots. Head is marked with black cross bands. The fish is very attractive and beautiful to aquarist. This species moves in group but sometimes these are found scattered under small pebbles and gravels. They live in the sandy bottom. It is distributed in the upstream of rivers. It has slow and sluggish movements. It feeds on plankton, algae, aquatic insects, plant matters. Its breeding is not known in captive condition but it is known that they breed in late summer season. Youngone attached to the plant. It attains a length of 3-7 cm. and normally found in 5cm length.

14. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Acanthocobitis botia
(Hamilton & Buchanan, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Leopard- Loach

LOCAL NAME

Chitkabri Baghi

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Balitoridae
Sub family	Nemacheilinae
Genus	<i>Acanthocobitis</i>
Species	<i>botia</i>



Acanthocobitis botia

Habits and habitat

They are found in tanks, chauris, mauns, floodplain area with aquatic plant. It occurs in rivers and canals with slow flowing water. Mostly found in inundated field, ditches. Reported from Sitamarhi, Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur, Samastipur and other districts of Bihar.

Salient feature

Body is elongated, round cylindrical. It has a pattern of spots all along its body. The ground colour of the body is olive to yellowish and light orange with regular rows of round or oval spots which are different in size and form. Caudal fin has 4-5 rows of dots appearing as a black line. A dark line runs at the base of the caudal peduncle. Dorsal fin has 5-6 oblique zigzag narrow dots bands. Head is marked with spot looking like a reticulated network of band which makes the fish very beautiful and attractive in aquarium. This species is hardy and can sustain in bad condition, survives in extreme high of temperature also. It is slow mover and shows curly movement. It feeds on plant matters, insects, plankton, larvae and organism. The details of its breeding habits are not known in captive condition. They breed in late summer with planted tanks. The young ones are attached to the plant with muddy bottom. It attains a length of 5-7cm.

15. SCIENTIFIC NAME *Lepidocephalus thermalis*
(Valenciennes, 1846)

COMMON NAME Spiny loach, Malabar loach

LOCAL NAME Baghi

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cobitidae
Sub family	Cobotinae
Genus	<i>Lepidocephalus</i>
Species	<i>thermalis</i>



Lepidocephalus thermalis

Habits and habitat

It is found in rivers and its associated canals. It occurs in floodplain area, ditches, tanks, chauras, and beels. Mostly found in Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, Darbhanga, Madhubani and a few in other north districts of Bihar. Inhabits in flowing and standing water with sandy bottom and with plants.

Salient features

This species is having peculiar and specific body characteristics. They select very specific habitat conditions. The body is elongated and cylindrical. This species is having a pattern of spots arranged all along its body with 9-10 blotches regular in line. Caudal fin is with 4-5 rows of dots appearing as a black semi circular bands and dorsal fin with black dots in oblique line. The body has greyish colour above and olive below. It is found moving in groups. It looks very attractive in group. They stay on bottom and hide in the rocks, gravels etc. It feeds on algae, plant matters, plankton and aquatic insects. It is slow mover and having curly movement. It is found attached to the substratum. It attains a length of 8cm.

**16. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Botia lohachata
(Chaudhry, 1912)

COMMON NAME

Tiger loach, 'Y' loach

LOCAL NAME

Baghi, Lohachta

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cobitidae
Sub family	Botinae
Genus	<i>Botia</i>
Species	<i>lohachata</i>



Botia lohachata

Habits and habitat

It occurs in lotic and lentic water system. Mostly found in Gandak river and Triveni canals, Bagmati canals and also found in chauris, floodplain area, ditches, tanks, beels of Champaran, Muzaffarpur and a few in other districts of Bihar.

Salient features

Body is elongated, cylindrical, with flattened ventral surface. The ground colour of the body is olive to golden yellowish with silvery grey or earthy brown with series of "Y" shaped marking. Arms of Y on each side meet on the top of the body so that it shows about four "O" shaped markings. These species has a deep colour vertical bands along its body. It is very shy in nature mainly nocturnal. This fish lives at the bottom with rocky and gravelled basin. It is fast with moderate movement and active at night. It eats almost everything at night, but refusing even daphnia in daytime. It feeds on plant-matter, plankton, aquatic insects and worms. It is found in narrow streams having muddy substratum and with less velocity. It attains a length of 9-11 cm. This species of loach is very popular, attractive and beautiful for aquarium. It has high demand in international trade market.

17. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Botia dario
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Necktic loach

LOCAL NAME

Nacti, Baghi, Botya

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cobitidae
Sub family	Botinae
Genus	<i>Botia</i>
Species	<i>dario</i>



Botia dario

Habits and habitat

They are found in Ganga, Sone and Gandak rivers and associated canals. It occurs in chauras, beels, tanks, and floodplain areas in districts of Champaran, Patna, Buxar, Ara, Kaimur, Jahanabad and Aurangabad, also found in submountain areas.

Salient features

Body is elongated and cylindrical shape. It has golden greyish colour with 7-8 dark brownish vertical oblique bands descending from back to abdomen with series of 'U' shaped marking. The species has a pattern of bands vertically along its body. Caudal fin is with 2-3 oblique black band on each lobe. A set of bushy barbels adorns the mouth, looking like a obstinate little moustache. There are three pair of barbels, two pairs on upper jaw and one pair on the lower jaw. These species is more attractive than other varieties. They have in high demand in international market at high price. They breed in summer during May-June at 24-30°C water temperature. It is fast mover, very active and search their food at night time but slow in day. It feeds on insects, crustaceans, larvae, and plant matter. It attains a length of 9cm.

**18. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Botia dayi
(Hora, 1932)

COMMON NAME

Hora loach

LOCAL NAME

Chitkabari baghi

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Actinoformes
Family	Cobitidae
Sub family	Botinae
Genus	<i>Botia</i>
Species	<i>dayi</i>



Botia dayi

Habits and habitat

It is found in Gangetic river belt at Fatua (Patna), Pahleja (Hajipur), Buxar, Ara, Rohtas, and Aurangabad districts, also found in Gandak river and canals. It occurs in ponds, tanks, chauras, and flood plain area filled with plants.

Salient features

Body has light golden yellowish colour. It has irregularly arranged scattered black dots and dark brownish bars. The fish enclose yellowish spots of different sizes. Adult seems to retain some of the black dots which is quite remarkable as they age. Most of the fishes lose their colouration as they grow larger and older. Caudal fin has 3-4 rows of black bands, also reticulated with dark brown band on the head. Sand and dirt are taken in mouth and rapidly expelled to the gills. It is omnivorous and fast mover. It feeds on plankton, insects, plant matters, crustaceans and molluscs. These move in groups. It attains a length of 12cm.

19. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Mystus tengara
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

tiger zebra catfish

LOCAL NAME

tengara

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Siluriformes
Family	Bagridae
Genus	<i>Mystus</i>
Species	<i>tengara</i>



Mystus tengara

Habits and habitat

It is found in ponds, tanks, floodplain area, beels, chauras and ditches. It occurs in Sone, Ganga rivers and canals. Inhabits in flowing water system also found in standing water with macrophytes and sandy & muddy bottom.

Salient features

Body is elongated delicate greenish to bright yellow in colour. brown. Body of the flanks and belly are silvery white. The fish is having 4-5 dark brownish to greenish black bars on lateral side which taper remarkably posteriorly and eventually disappear. A dark black line over the pectoral fin often indistinct and other fins are hyaline light brown. It is carnivorous and moderate mover. It feeds on insects, larvae, worms, crustaceans, small fishes. It breeds in May- June and pre monsoon season. It attains a length of 9-10 cm also available at maximum 16cm. This fish is used as food but aquarist like it as ornamental fish. Back is slightly darker, usually pale

**20. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Mystus vittatus
(Bloch, 1794)

COMMON NAME

Striped dwarf catfish

LOCAL NAME

Tengara, tengra

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Siluriformes
Family	Bagridae
Genus	<i>Mystus</i>
Species	<i>vittatus</i>



Mystus vittatus

Habits and habitat

It is found in Ganga, Sone, Gandak, Koshi rivers and associated canals. Mostly found in clear and flowing water, but also occurs in floodplain area, tanks, chauras, mauns and stream water.

Salient features

Body is elongated and laterally compressed. This species has 8 barbels, two of them are very long in size on the upper jaw near nasal and rest are small in size, next two small barbels are at upper jaw and four barbels at lower jaw. It has grey silvery to golden yellow ground colour with several dark brown to deep black longitudinal bands on the whole flanks. It has closely dusky shoulder spot often present. Fins are clear and glossy often with dark tips. Their colour varies according to age and size. It is carnivorous and shows moderate movements. It feeds on crustaceans, insects, worms, and molluscs. This species breeds in April and May. Eggs released in water filled with plants and weeds. It attains a length of 18-20cm.

21. SCIENTIFIC NAME *Mystus bleekeri*
(Day, 1877)

COMMON NAME Day's Mystus

LOCAL NAME Tengsi

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Siluriformes
Family	Bagridae
Genus	<i>Mystus</i>
Species	<i>bleekeri</i>



Mystus bleekeri

Habits and habitat

It occurs in ponds, tanks, maun, chaur, rivers and canals of almost all the districts of Bihar. Generally found in Sone and Ganga river. Mostly found in Rohtas, Bhojpur, Patna, Bhagalpur, Chapra and Gaya. Also found in floodplain area, lotic and lentic water system.

Salient feature

The body is elongated and laterally compressed. The species has greenish to brown colour above and light colour below. It has four pairs of barbels. One pair of barbel is very long and other is sort in size on mouth of upper jaw. There are two lateral bands, one on the upper side of lateral line and other on lower side. It has two dark deep black blotch on the body, one behind the gill cover and second as a spot on caudal peduncle which looks very attractive. This makes the fish attractive with light black line with few dusky dots. Dorsal, anal, pectoral fins are short, forked usually preceded by a spine. Anal fin usually is short with 10-12 soft rays. It is carnivorous, feeds on insects, worms, plankton, molluscan and crustaceans. This species breeds in pre monsoon season in natural condition with slow flow water system having sandy bottom. It attains a length of 17cm.

**22. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Mystus cavasius
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Gangatic mystus

LOCAL NAME

Milky tengara

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Siluriformes
Family	Bagridae
Genus	<i>Mystus</i>
Species	<i>cavasius</i>



Mystus cavasius

Habits and habitat

It is found in Sone, Gandak and Ganga river and its associated canals and channels. Inhabits freshwater of tidal river. It occurs in floodplain area, chauras, beels etc.

Salient features

Body is elongated and laterally compressed. It has silvery white colour with top of dorsal part is silvery grey above and white colour below. It has four pairs of barbels, one pair barbel is very long near nostral. Dorsal fin is long compared to other species with 8-10 hard rays usually preceded by a spine. Head is compressed and golden greenish in colour. It is carnivorous, surface and column feeder. It likes current water and is fast mover. The availability of this species is less in nature compared to other species in the group. It feeds on insects, worms, crustaceans, and fishes. This fish is also used as food fish. Some aquarist like it in big aquarium. It attains a length of 40cm.

**23. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Pseudeutropius atherinoides
(Bloch, 1794)

COMMON NAME

Indian patasi

LOCAL NAME

Patasi, Potasi

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Siluriformes
Family	Schilbeidae
Sub family	Schilbeniae
Genus	<i>Pseudeutropius</i>
Species	<i>atherinoides</i>



Pseudeutropius atherinoides

Habits and habitat

It is found in Ganga, Sone, Mahananda, Koshi and Adhwara group rivers and canals. It occurs in flowing water at substratum region. It is also found in standing water.

Salient features

Body is elongated. It has silvery brown greenish colour with 3 longitudinal band on flank. A faint pale stripe along lateral line ending in dusky spot at base of caudal fin. It has black spot on nape and in front of dorsal fin, three pair of barbels and one pair nasal barbel is long. Anal fin is very long, but not confluent with caudal fin. They are small in size and milky white bright colour, is attractive in aquarium and draws attention of aquarist. It feeds on small crustacean, insects, daphnia, tubeifex, glassworm and plant matters. This species is fast mover, column and surface feeder. It likes to move in flowing water. It attains a length of 15cm.

24. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Sperata aor
(Hamilton & Buchanan, 1822)

ENGLISH NAME

Long whiskered cat fish

LOCAL NAME

Dariayai tengra

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Siluriformes
Family	Bagridae
Genus	<i>Sperata</i>
Species	<i>aor</i>



Sperata aor

Habits and habitat

It is found in Ganga, Sone, Gandak rivers and canals. Mostly found in river basin area. Also found in beels, chauris, reservoirs, lakes and tanks. This species is reported from Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Siwan, Vaishali, Sitamarhi, Buxar, Ara, Rohtas and Aurangabad districts of Bihar.

Salient features

Body is bluish above, gradually fading to whitish on flanks, and belly is milky white. A black spot is on the base and tip of the dorsal fin. Caudal fin is dark grey with the lighter background. It has four pairs of barbels and one maxillary pair extends to the back is very long. During day-time, the species is quite and not aggressive. It feeds on insects, fishes, worms, larvae, molluscs, crustaceans. It is carnivorous. It is fast mover and surface and column feeder. It is found in deep and flowing water with gravely and rocky bottom. This species always breeds in Sone and Ganga river in pre monsoon. It attains a length of 180cm. This species is very big in group of this family. The fish is also used as food fish.

**25. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Salmophasia phulo
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Fine scale razorbelly minnows

LOCAL NAME

Chelwa, Chela

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cyprinidae
Sub-family	Cultrinae
Genus	<i>Salmophasia</i>
Species	<i>phulo</i>



Salmophasia phulo

Habits and habitat

It is found in ponds, tanks, beels and chauras. Inhabits in Gangetic and Sone rivers with associated canals, also found in floodplain area, stagnant and flowing water and submountain region. Mostly found in districts of Rohtas, Kaimoor, Aurangabad, Jahanabad, Gaya, Bhagalpur, Bhojpur, Patna, and Vaishali.

Salient features

Body is elongated and laterally compressed. It has a very shining brilliant silvery colour with bright silvery lateral band. Back on top is greenish and belly is whitish. Fins are hyaline, delicate and yellowish in colour. It feeds on plankton, aquatic insects, plant matter, tubifix and worms. It is fast mover and column feeder. The anal fin in adult is long and pointed, the first ray being opaque white. The ray in fins is confined to the base of the tail fin in the female, the colouration extending well into the lower and partially into the upper lobe. The fish breeds in normal condition at temperature 25-26°C. Eggs are non-adhesive, they do not stick to the plants, which are useful only as a screen to hide the eggs until the fishes can be removed after spawning is completed. Attains a maximum length of 12cm.

26. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Ompak pabda
Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Pabdah Cat Fish

LOCAL NAME

Jalkapoor, Pava

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub class	actinopterygii
Order	Siluriformes
Family	Siluridae
Genus	<i>Ompak</i>
Species	<i>Pabda</i>



Ompak pabda

Habits and habitat

It is found in plane and submountain region. Inhabits in floodplain area, resevoirs, chauras, beels etc. Mostly found in Gandak and Ganga river and canals, Kararia, Sirsa, Motijheel beels (East Champaran), Manika, Motipur, Jhapha beels (Muzaffarpur).

Salient features

Body is elongated and compressed on both sides and head depressed. It has silvery grey with olive yellow body dark on back side of the body, fading to dull grey on belly. Two dark lateral bands are on the body just above the lateral line. A light black spot is on the lateral line near shoulder. It has two pairs of barbels, one maxillary barbels extended upto middle. This species has the peculiarity of having certain body characteristics and adaptation. Dorsal fin is reduced, usually one adipose fin is absent, pectoral fin converts into spine. Anal fin is long, attached with caudal fin. It grows up to length of 30cm. It feeds on aquatic insects, crustaceans, earthworm, molluscs, small fish, larvae, tadpoles and plant matters. It breeds in monsoon season (May-July). It is fast mover. This is found in clear and flowing water with sandy bottom and also found in still water.

**27. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Chaca chaca
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Indian chaca

LOCAL NAME

Chakwa machhali

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Aetinopterygii
Order	Siluriformes
Family	Chacidae
Genus	<i>Chaca</i>
Species	<i>Chaca</i>



Chaca chaca

Habits and habitat

It is found in rivers, canals, beel, chaur and flood plain area. Mostly found in Ganga river and associated channels. They are reported from Bhagalpur, Patna, Buxar, Rohtas, Begusarai and other districts of Bihar. It is found in shallow area and lives quietly on the bottom alone.

Salient features

They are robust and ugly fish in look. Body is tadpole(frog) shaped, large posteriorly and compressed. Head broad and anteriorly compressed, very large mouth. It has a grey brownish ground colour with deep brown marking. Fins are dark brown with black spots and newly growing fin edges are whitish. It is more active at night. It prefers attaching to the soft substratum by flat ventral surface. They live at swampy areas of the rivers and canals. It is slow mover and attached to substratum. It feeds on aquatic insects, crustaceans, molluscs, plant matters and worms. It attains a length of 20cm (maximum). They breed in summer season in shallow, flowing water.

**28. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Wallago attu
(Bloch & Schneider, 1801)

COMMON NAME

Boal, Fresh water shark

LOCAL NAME

Burari

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Aetinopterygii
Order	Siluriformes
Family	Siluridae
Genus	<i>Wallago</i>
Species	<i>attu</i>



Wallago attu

Habits and habitat

It is found in all over Bihar. It lives in ponds, tanks, chauras, mauns, floodplain area, rivers, canals, reservoirs and other water logging area. Mostly thrives well in maun and reservoir for safe zone.

Salient features

The body is elongated, moderately compressed ventrally. It has dusky with brownish green colour on back and tip of dorsal side, glossy silvery purple colour on flanks. All fins have light reddish yellow colour. Mouth is very large and fairy. Skin is extremely smooth. Head beyond upside is well developed. Maxillary and mandibular barbels are present but there is no nasal barbel. Dorsal fin reduced to modified into moderately strong spine. Anal fin is very long and continued to caudal fin but not attached to caudal fin. Fish usually hides under holes in bank of tanks, beels and reservoir. It inhabits deeper zone in still water or slow flowing water with mud or silty soil. They have very peculiar character that during the day the species is quiet and not aggressive. This fish is highly carnivorous. It feeds on fishes, insects, plankton, larvae in young ones, crustaceans, molluscan, worms and other aquatic animals. This species is very popular and liked as food but small size of fish is liked for aquarium. People know them as predator fish. It breeds in summer in nature. It attains a length of 240cm and weight of 45.0kg.

29. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Bagarius bagarius
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Gangetic goonch

LOCAL NAME

Gojta, Baghari

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Siluriformes
Family	Sisoridae
Genus	<i>Bagarius</i>
Species	<i>bagarius</i>



Bagarius bagarius

Habits and habitat

It is found in Sone and Ganga rivers and canals. It lives in flowing water with sandy and gravel bottom. Sometimes found in floodplain areas, chauras, inundated fields. This is mostly found in Rohtas, Bhojpur, Gaya, Jahanabad, Aurangabad and other districts.

Salient features

Body is dorsally convex and gradually slope towards head. Ventral side is flattened with light yellow in colour.

It has olive deep brown with dark band and blotches. It is bottom dwelling cat fish. Body skin is more thickened with specialized unculiferous tubercles. It has adhesive labial organ with which they cling to the rocky or hard substratum. Fins are well developed having light yellowish grey colour. Dorsal fin base runs towards pelvic fin, adipose fin base towards anal fin and centered on caudal fin. Caudal fin is light yellowish grey. All fins with black spots. It has four pairs of barbels. It is carnivorous and feeds on insect, worms, crustaceans, small fishes and prawns. It has slow and curly movement on water column. Its breeding season is prior to the monsoon rain. It attains a length of 19cm. It is fatty fish locally known as telahwa machhali.

30. SCIENTIFIC NAME *Hara jardonii*
(Day, 1870)

COMMON NAME Stone catfish

LOCAL NAME Gojta

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Siluriformes
Family	Sisoridae
Genus	<i>Hara</i>
Species	<i>jardonii</i>



Hara jardonii

Habits and habitat

It is found in the Ganga and Sone rivers and its branches of canals. It also lives in mountain stream and associated channels with gravel and rocky bottom. This species is reported in Rohtas, Buxar, Ara, Gaya, Aurangabad and Patna districts of Bihar.

Salient features

Body is elongated dorsally compressed and ventral surface is flattened. It has yellow brownish colour with irregular dark marking and light yellow ventral surface. Dorsal fin is of uniformly dark colour with dusky except at the tip, adipose fin light yellow and dip spotted. Anal fin is brown with two dark bands. Pectoral fin is deep brown and hard, forked spine, pelvic fin and caudal fin are dark in colour. It is carnivorous. It feeds on crustaceans, molluscans, aquatic insects and worms. It is slow but having curly movement. It is found in stone-cave to save from enemy and attached to substratum. It freely moves in night. It has four pairs of barbels and all are anulated.

31. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Gagata cenia
(Hamilton, 1822)

ENGLISH NAME

Clown cat-fish

LOCAL NAME

Gugata

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Siluriformes
Family	Sisoridae
Genus	<i>Gagata</i>
Species	<i>cenia</i>



Gagata cenia

Habits and habitat

This species is a riverine fish. It lives in Ganga river and associated canals. Very few number is found in Triveni canal, these canals originate from Nepal submountain. Inhabits in Sone river and canals also.

Salient features

This is one of those fish which is most attractive at its smaller size, but when fully grown is neither good looking nor suited to the aquarium. Only smaller fish is imported. The body is usually cylindrical and without scales. It has brown grayish ground above the lateral line and ventral part is milky white to light brown with four dark black blotches on the dorsal side, which extend to flanks. Caudal fin is silvery white with a black blotch on each lobe, black strips are found on dorsal fin. Pectoral, pelvic and anal fins are clear and transparent, it has four pairs of barbels. Barbels are sensory organs to be used as a help to activity. It is omnivorous and fast movers. It feeds on crustaceans, small fish, molluscs, plankton and other aquatic animals. It lives on sandy, gravelly bottom and rocks. It attains a length of 15cm. It is not known to breed in captive condition.

32. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Glyptothorax annandalei
(Hora, 1923)

COMMON NAME

Stone catfish

LOCAL NAME

Pathar chatwa

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Siluriformes
Family	Sisoridae
Genus	<i>Glyptothorax</i>
Species	<i>annandalei</i>



Glyptothorax annandalei

Habits and habitat

It is found in rivers and canals. Mostly found in Gandak and associated branches and Nepal border districts of Bihar. It lives in flowing water with gravel and rocky bottom.

Salient features

Body is elongated compressed laterally from both sides, ventrally flattened. It has brown colour of dorsal side with two deep black band on lateral side. Caudal fin is light brown with two bands. Dorsal, anal and pectoral fins are light yellow. It has four pairs of barbels. One pair of maxillary barbels covered with lather. It has small sucking disc present on ventral surface, which helps to maintain their position in strong current. During day time, the species is quiet and found attached to the rocks. At night, it actively moves for searching of foods and other activities. It is omnivorous. It feeds on plant matters, algae, aquatic insect, earthworm and crustaceans. It has slow but curly movements. It attains the length of 11cm. It is not used in fishery.

33. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Eristhistes pussilus
(Muller & Troschel, 1849)

COMMON NAME

Gangetic-erethiste

LOCAL NAME

Daryai-gujta

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Siluriformes
Family	Sisoridae
Genus	<i>Eristhistes</i>
Species	<i>pussilus</i>



Eristhistes pussilus

Habits and habitat

The fish is found in Gangetic river and Sone river command area. It lives in associated canals. It inhabits in submountain region with sandy bottom and is also found in muddy bottom with aquatic plants.

Salient features

This is elongated cat fish found in Gangetic region. The species lives at slow flowing and shallow water, deep with sand and gravel bottom. Body is dorsally compressed with yellow brownish ground colour with the irregular deep brown blotches, dusky and flattened light yellow ventral. All fins are dusky brownish in colour. It has four pairs of barbels annulated with black. It is found attached with substratum and stone while rest. It feeds on daphnia, worms, tubifex, crustaceans and molluscs. It is a very peculiar and small fish. Aquarist likes it for aquarium because it looks different. It attains a length of 5cm.

34. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Tetraodon cutcutia
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Ocellated puffer fish

LOCAL NAME

Bengmachhali, Galphuli

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Tetraodontiformes
Family	Tetraodontidae
Genus	<i>Tetraodon</i>
Species	<i>cutcutia</i>



Tetraodon cutcutia

Habits and habitat

It is found in ponds, tanks, mauns, chauris and floodplain area, mostly found in West Champaran, East Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Siwan, Gopalganj districts of North Bihar. Also found in river and canals of swampy area.

Salient features

The puffers are commercial fish. They can blow themselves with air or water into the veritable balloon. The ground colour of body is yellow with reddish black blotches, belly dirty white and back with dark irregular reticulated marking. Fins are light yellow or olive in colour with dark brown dusky and red bands. It prefers to stay at bottom water with their tail curved inwards to their body. The skin is very smooth and soft, when inflated, resembles tennis ball. The outstanding feature of this blow fish is their ability to puff themselves up with air, like balloon. They do this when frightened. Most, but not all fish, do it when removed from water, placed on the land. Air is taken in the mouth, until the belly is fully inflated and hard. Even the vent is blown inside out into a point. The fish is able to maintain this balloon form only about one or half minute. When placed back to the water the inflation soon collapses and the fish quickly drops to the bottom of water body. It feeds on plant matters, molluscs, crustacean, aquatic insects etc. It attaches to the substratum. It has slow movement. It attains a length of 7-8cm.

**35. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Colisa fasciatus
(Bloch & Scheider, 1801)

COMMON NAME

Gaint gourami

LOCAL NAME

Kotrai, Khosti

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Persifoomes
Sub-order	Anabantoidei
Family	Belontiidae
Sub-family	Trichigasterinei
Genes	<i>Colisa</i>
Species	<i>fasciatus</i>



Colisa fasciatus

Habits and habitat

It is found in inundated fields, maun,chaurs, and ponds. Mostly found in floodplain areas, canals and slow flowing water with weeds. It is reported from Sitamarhi, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur and other districts of Bihar.

Salient features

The body is small and laterally flattened with greenish blue colour above and dirty white below and orange bands descending obliquely downward and backwards from back to abdomen. Fins have alternate dark and pale spots, anal fin often blue with red margin. It looks very attractive and beautiful in aquarium. It can be easily bred in late summer season, also bred in captive condition at 28°C water temperature. It feeds on aquatic small insects, plankton, algae, plant matters and larvae. It is fast mover and column feeder. It attains a length of 4-7 cm. It is liked by aquarist and used in aquarium.



36. SCIENTIFIC NAME *Colisa lalia*
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME Dwarf gourami

LOCAL NAME Kotra, Khalisa

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Perciformes
Sub order	Anabantodei
Family	Belontiidae
Sub-family	Trychogasterinae
Genus	<i>colisa</i>
Species	<i>lalia</i>



Colisa lalia

Habits and habitat

It is found in pond, tank, maun, chaur, floodplain area of river and canals. It lives in slow flowing water with plenty of vegetation and mostly found in Sitamarhi, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Muzaffarpur and Samastipur districts of Bihar.

Salient features

The body is small. It is one of the most attractive variety in the group. It has gleaming gold to deep orange red ground colouration with crossed oblique bands of radium blue. The throat and belly are iridescent dark blue. Fins are long with bluish spots and bars. Anal fin is more waved round with red margin. This fish has a peculiar colour pattern which is unique, looking very beautiful in aquarium. This lovely little fish can be alive in aquarium without aeration for a long time. It has one pair of barbels. It feeds on aquatic insects, daphnia and plant matters. This species has more demand at high price in the world trade market. This species moves in group and prefers to stay at few depth of water. It is slow mover. It attains a length of 5cm.

**37. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Colisa sota
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Sunset gourami/Hony gourami

LOCAL NAME

Kotra, Khosti

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Perciformes
Sub order	Anabantoidei
Family	Belontiidae
Sub family	Trichogasterinae
Genus	<i>Colisa</i>
Species	<i>sota</i>



Colisa sota

Habits and habitat

It is found in wetland areas, beels, pond, ditches and river of Bihar. It is mostly found in floodplain area and canals with plenty of vegetation. It is found in few number in nature of all over Bihar, but found in large number in Sitamarhi, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur districts.

Salient features

The body has yellow to silvery gleam of ground colour of male. Fins are of light yellow colour and forked, female is grey and less colourfull. The mature breeders and at breeding time body of male becomes bright reddish orange in colour. Fins are yellow in colour. Head and throat become green black. Male has dark bluish green colour on the ventral surface, tip of the caudal is with red black.

This genus of fishes build their nest at the surface of the leaves of plants. Female is to be removed soon after egg laying and male shows parental care. The fertilized eggs stick to the bubbles at plant. It attains a length of 6-7cm. It is omnivorous. It likes aquatic insects and algae, plant material, etc. Reported that this group of species while attempted for the breeding in capative condition gave best result.

38. SCIENTIFIC NAME *Anabas testudineus*
(Bloch, 1795)

COMMON NAME Climbing perch

LOCAL NAME Kawai

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Perciformes
Sub order	Anabantoidei
Family	Anabantidae
Genus	<i>Anabas</i>
Species	<i>testudineus</i>



Anabas testudineus

Habits and habitat

It is found in pond, tank, beel, maun floodplain area, river and canals, mostly found in stagnant water with planted and muddy bottom. These species of fish can tolerate extremely unfavorable water conditions and required less amount of dissolved oxygen. Mostly abundant in kitchen ponds and derelict water bodies.

Salient features

The body is elongated and laterally compressed. It has greenish to dark grey colour of dorsal and lateral part of the body, pale yellow colour of belly. Head broad with black greenish colour. Spines are found on the operculum. Dorsal fin has eight rays with spine and black dusky at the base. Pectoral fin blunted, pelvic fin is short with one spine. Caudal fin is rounded with light yellow. This species has peculiar character in the group which can crawl out of the water. They have air breathing organ situated behind the eyes, helps in taking direct oxygen from air. They do not need to make bubble nests for laying the eggs. This is very hardy fish. They live under the mud during unfavourable condition. It attains a length of 9-14 cm. But maturity attains at 12cm. It feeds on algae, macrophytes, and some aquatic insects. It has slow moderate movements and is a fast feeder.



39. SCIENTIFIC NAME *Xenentodon cancila*
(Hamilton, 1822)

ENGLISH NAME Freshwater Gar fish

LOCAL NAME Kauwa machhali

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cyprinopterygii
Sub-order	Exocoetoidoi
Family	Belonidae
Genus	<i>Xenentodon</i>
Species	<i>cancila</i>



Xenentodon cancila

Habits and habitat

It is found in Ganga, Sone river and associated canals. It lives in pond, maun, chaur, floodplain area. Mostly found in districts of Bhojpur, Rohtas, Aurangabad, Patna, Gaya and Vaisali and available in other parts of Gangetic basin. It inhabits in deep water and slow flow water with floating weeds and plants.

Salient features

This fish has peculiarity of having certain body characteristics and adaptation. They select very specific habitat conditions. It likes to live in only clear and flowing water. This is only one genus in Bihar and in India too. The body is long cylindrical. It has light silvery greenish colour at the dorsal side and whitish below with silvery linear band and blotches on the lateral side of the body. Dorsal and caudal fins are very small with dark edged. It has no scale and no spine. It has upper and lower jaws extended into long beaks with sharp teeth. It can see and behave like crow and so called "Kaua Machhli". It is surface feeder and slow mover. It feeds on insects, crustaceans, small fish and is carnivorous in nature. It attains a length of 15-20cm but maximum is reported to be 40cm.

40. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Channa marulius
(Hamilton, 1822)

ENGLISH NAME

Gaint snakehead

LOCAL NAME

Shaura, Gagal

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Perciformes
Sub-order	Channoidei
family	Channidae
Genus	<i>Channa</i>
Species	<i>marulius</i>



Channa marulius

Habits and habitat

It is found in old tanks, rivers, mauns beels, floodplain area. It is found in still water with vegetation. Mostly found in deep and clear water with muddy bottom, small reservior and canal. It is usually found in districts of Aurangabad, Gaya, Rohtas, Bhojpur, Bhagalpur, Munger, Samstipur and other districts of Bihar.

Salient features

The body is usually long and round cylindrical and smooth. It is deep greyish green in colour and 6-8 oval blotches are found on both lateral side of yellow in colour. Distinct light yellow spots are scattered on the body and head. Dorsal and anal fins are pale and yellow in colour with dirty and white spots in irregular way. Pectoral and caudal fins have deep colour with vertical band in light yellow colour. It is not cultured in ponds and tanks. They are air breathing fish due to which can live for longer duration in less oxygenated water. It is carnivorous. It feeds on fish, insects, small snake and other aquatic animals. It is fast mover. It attains a length of common size of 46cm but may attains a length upto 122cm. They breed in late summer season with weed infested water body. They lay very good number of spawns but survival is very poor. The fry moves in water with guard of parents.

41. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Channa orientalis
(Bloch & Scheider, 1801)

COMMON NAME

Asiatic snakehead

LOCAL NAME

Garai, cheng

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Perciformes
Sub-order	Chonnoidei
Family	Channidae
Genus	<i>Channa</i>
Species	<i>orientalis</i>



Channa orientalis

Habits and habitat

This fish is available all over Bihar. It inhabits in ponds, tanks, old ditches, floodplain area and canals with muddy bottom and also found in sandy, slow water with submerged aquatic vegetation. It lives in paddy field with little depth of water.

Salient features

This fish is elongated, slim and snake headed. It is greenish grey in colour on the dorsal and lateral side of the body. There are dark oblique bands runs continuously arranged on both sides of flank. Ventral part of the body is white. Dorsal and anal fins having alternate blue and light yellow vertical bands, caudal fins with distinct alternate fin rays blue and light yellow. It has no ventral fins. Amphibious mode of life is responsible for certain time exhibited by this species. It is airbreathing fish and having no spines in the fins. They are tough and can be transported in tube with little or no water. Sometimes this fish creeps on the grass in rain drops from one tank to other tanks. Their mouth is enormous showing high appetites. This is important food fish. It feeds on fish, tadpoles, aquatic insects and earthworms. Eggs float on the water surface and receive no attention. The fry is free swimming, the female provides them with foods. Both parents guard the fry. It attains a length of 8-10cm.

**42. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Channa gachua
(Bloch, 1801)

COMMON NAME

Pigmy snakehead

LOCAL NAME

Cheranga

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Perciformes
Sub-order	Channoidei
Family	Channidae
Genus	<i>Channa</i>
Species	<i>gachua</i>



Channa gachua

Habits and habitat

It is found in ponds, tanks, maun, chaur, and inundated field. It is usually found in Sone and Gangetic river and in districts of Buxar, Rohtas, Gaya, Aurangabad, Kaimur, Patna and Vaishali and also found in small quantity in other districts of Bihar. It lives in stagnant water including sluggish flowing water and likes sandy bottom for staying or rest.

Salient features

The body is elongated, cylindrically round and smooth. It has greenish colour and dorsal and light green-grey flanks. Ventral part of body is dirty white. Pectoral fins are clear and transparent. Caudal and anal fins have light and greyish green colour with blue rays. Outer margin of anal and caudal fins are bright light grey. It eats average about 10-12cm fishes. Bad companion for other fishes. It feeds on fish, insects, crustaceans. It is omnivorous. It has moderate movement, surface and column feeder. Reported to attempt breeding in captive condition. It attains a length of 15-17cm.

43. SCIENTIFIC NAME *Channa stewartii*

COMMON NAME Tank goby

LOCAL NAME Bulla

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Perciformes
Sub-order	Channoidae
Family	Channidae
Genus	<i>Channa</i>
Species	<i>stewartii</i>



Channa stewartii

Habits and habitat

They are found in ponds, tanks, floodplain area and beels. Mostly found in river and canal with gravel, rocky and sandy bottom. They stay in shallow and flowing water. Actually this fish is riverine fish, it flows from flood. They are distributed in Buxar, Rohtas, Gaya, Aurangabad and other districts of Bihar.

Salient features

This species is very dangerous and highly predator fish. Their mouth is very enormous and round in size, appetites to much. The body is elongated, rough and cylindrical. It has light brownish white flanks and ventral surface is dirty white. Fins are clear. It is slow mover, found attaching to the substratum. It is carnivorous, feeds mainly on fish also insects, crustaceans, and tadpoles. They are air breathing fish. This species catches the fish and eating one fourth of the body weight. It attains a length of 20-25cm. They breed in pre-monsoon and rainy season. Spawn and fry come with flood water and entered in pond, tanks and other water logging areas.



44. SCIENTIFIC NAME *Glossogobius giuris*
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME Tank goby

LOCAL NAME Bulla

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Perciformes
Sub-order	Gobioidei
Family	Gobiidae
Sub-family	Gobiinae
Genus	<i>Glossogobius</i>
Species	<i>giuris</i>



Glossogobius giuris

Habits and habitat

They are found in ponds, tanks, floodplain area and beels. Mostly found in river and canal with gravel, rocky and sandy bottom. They stay in shallow and flowing water. Actually this fish is riverine fish, it flows with flood. They are distributed in Buxar, Rohtas, Gaya, Aurangabad and other districts of Bihar.

Salient features

The body is round cylindrical and slimy. It has dark greyish green colour on the dorsal and flanks yellow colour with greenish black blotches arranged irregular, above and below lateral line. Caudal fin has deep greyish colour with rays, dorsal and anal fins in light colour, pectoral fin is clear. This species builds a nest in which the eggs are laid. It is hidden in mud in unfavorable condition and save from enemy. It is a good predator and carnivorous fish. It feeds on fish, earthworm, tadpoles, crustaceans. It breeds almost throughout the year. Fertilized eggs float on the surface and receive no attention. Parents guard the eggs and fry. Fry moves in group and follow the parents for searching the foods. The young easily eat on daphnia. It attains a length of 18-20cm.

45. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Pisodonofis boro
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Blind eel

LOCAL NAME

Anhwa

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Anguilliformes
Family	Ophichthidae
Genus	<i>Pisodonofis</i>
Species	<i>boro</i>



Pisodonofis boro

Habits and habitat

Inhabits in ponds, tanks, chauras, and mauns, usually found in old ditches, floodplain area with muddy bottom and with aquatic plants. Also found in large rivers, canals and reservoirs with clear water. It lives in holes along the bank. Mostly found in paddy field in rainy season.

Salient features

This fish differs from other eel, actually looking as snake. The moveable spine below the eye are absent. The body is elongated, round, compressed along extreme tail tip. It has brown red or rich red brick colour dorso-laterally and lighter below. There are no spots and bands. The snout is pointed, pectoral, dorsal, and anal fins are present in small with semi-transparent or light colour. This fish has long life span and can endure pretty bad condition, as well as extremes of temperature. Sometimes, the fish will come to rest in an odd position. It is slow mover, moving at the bottom of water but a difficult fish to catch in water body, especially in muddy bottom. It is omnivorous. It feeds on aquatic insect, small fish, crustaceans and old aquatic plant materials. It will emerge and begin a peculiar, interesting action of "combing" the sand surface in search of food. Sand and dirt are taken into the mouth and rapidly expelled through the gill. It attains a length of 70cm. But found in maximum length of 100cm.



46. SCIENTIFIC NAME *Mastacembelus guntheri*

COMMON NAME Small eel

LOCAL NAME Nacti

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Perciformes
Sub order	Mastacembeloidei
Family	Mastacembelidae
Genus	<i>Mastacembelus</i>
Species	<i>guntheri</i>



Mastacembelus guntheri

Habits and habitat

It is found in running and stagnant water, usually found in rivers, canal with sandy bottom and inhabits in chaur floodplain area and ditches with muddy bottom it enters through flood during rainy season. Easily seen in shallow and slow water river system.

Salient features

This species of fish is very small in size. Body is elongated and round. It has brown colour on dorsal side and light yellow or yellow colour on ventral side. Vertical band on both flanks with dark colour continues from head to caudal peduncle. Dorsal and anal fins continue up to caudal fin with yellow colour. Pectoral fin is present. Fleshy rostral appendage is present. It is omnivorous, feed on small aquatic insect larvae, worms, very small aquatic plant materials etc. It is fast mover, it is reported that it can not be bred in captive condition. Breeds in late summer season in nature. Spawn swims in water attached with aquatic plant. It attains a length of 5-7cm.

47. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Nandus nandus
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Gangetic leaf fish

LOCAL NAME

Dhalo

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Perciformes
Sub-order	Percoidei
Family	Nandidae
Sub-family	Nandinae
Genus	<i>Nandus</i>
Species	<i>nandus</i>



Nandus nandus

Habits and habitat

Inhabits in rivers and canal with clear water. It is found in floodplain areas, ditches and reservoir and also found in beels, chaur, inundated field. It is mostly found in Sone, Ganga river system and most commonly in still or sluggish water.

Salient features

The body is laterally compressed, flattened and small in size. It has greenish brown colour with four broad blotches in reddish brown colour. There are no bright colour, only varying and changing shaded of brown, irregularly spotted. Only one deep blotch on the base of caudal fin is found. Body is deep red brown, narrow vertically, bands and spots are found on the dorsal and anal fins are so transparent and hardy. Caudal fin is with dusky spots. Spine rays of the dorsal and anal fins are tipped white. Eye dark dull gold, the eye is with 3 radiating dark lines seen in this species. Mouth is very large and well adapted to its particular pleasure of eating smaller fish and it will take worms, mosquito larvae, aquatic insect. The sexes are difficult to identify but male is usually darker and longer in size. The spawners resemble that of the bubble nest builders but is not the same. They make bubbles among the top of leaves and females deposit approximately 100-300 eggs. Female should be removed after the spawning is completed. Very deliberate in its movements and often stands still, but not in a sluggish movement. The species is most peculiar and ugly fish, aquarist except it as ornamental fish. It attains a length of 20cm. At rest must look deceptively like drifting leaves.

48. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Amblypharyngodon mola
(Hamilton & Buchanan, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Mola carplet, pale carplet

LOCAL NAME

Chhota dhawai, maurala

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cyprinidae
Sub family	Cyprininae
Genus	<i>Amblypharyngodon</i>
Species	<i>mola</i>



Amblypharyngodon mola

Habits and habitat

It is found in ponds, tanks, mauns, chauras and floodplain area. It is found in stagnant and running water, also inhabits in rivers and canals. These species are usually found in Rohtas, Kaimur, Buxar, Aurangabad, Bhojpur, Gaya, Jahanabad and other districts of Bihar.

Salient features

Body is laterally compressed. It has golden yellow colour below lateral line and milky silvery lateral band. The lateral band runs from head to tail. Dorsal, anal and caudal fins are marked with red in colour. Pectoral and pelvic fins are clear. Fast movers, voracious feeder and column feeder. It feeds on small aquatic insects, plankton and small worms. It is very attractive in aquarium. It attains a length of 20cm.

**49. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Parambassis ranga
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Indian glass fish

LOCAL NAME

Chana

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Perciformes
Sub order	Percoidei
Family	Ambassidae
Genus	<i>Parambassis</i>
Species	<i>ranga</i>



Parambassis ranga

Habits and habitat

Occurs in ponds, tanks, beels and chauras. It is found in standing and running water, Inhabits in rivers and canal. It is found in big quantity in floodplain areas and other water logging.

Salient features

This species of fish is very small, more or less translucent, brilliantly silver in colour, is found throughout the state. It is a bit of crystal moving in the aquarium. Like crystal it sometimes catches the light in such a way that it gives of prismatic colours, mostly bluish colour reflected by the scale. The vertebral column and swim bladder is easily visible in the living fish, commonly known as glass-fish. Just above the sac large swim bladder can be seen enabling the fish to swim at ease in different depth of water. Dorsal, pectoral, caudal fins are clear. Tip of dorsal fin is blackish bluish. They are carnivorous. Daphnia are their ideal food. This species is not easily bred but it can be done successfully. They should be kept in calm and cold water for breeding purpose. It is ought to be about 10cm, deep water and surface with full of planted vegetation. This fish is of high value for aquarium. The value is added to the fish by injecting dye very carefully in foreign countries. It attains a length of 4cm and not exceeds 5-6cm.

50. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Chanda nama
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Elongate glass perchlet

LOCAL NAME

Chana, chanari

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Perciformes
Sub order	Percoidei
Family	Ambassidae
Genus	<i>Chanda</i>
Species	<i>nama</i>



Chanda nama

Habits and habit at

It is found in ponds, tanks, beels, chauras and floodplain areas. It is found in rivers and canals both in stagnant, running and clear water. This species is found all over the state but mostly available in Gaya, Bhagalpur, Buxar, Rohtas, Bhojpur, Patna and other districts of Bihar.

Salient features

This species is longer and not so quite translucent as a *Pranga*. It is silvery yellowish in colour. Fins are bright orange and blue edges on fins, they are having the spiny and soft dorsal connected at the base. Vertebral column and other adjoining parts are visible. This fish is known as bony fish. It is fast mover, column feeder. They breed in rainy season in natural condition. It feeds on mosquito larvae because this species could effectively be used in the control of guinea worms and also for control of material activities. This fish is available at low price in the market. This fish is used as baits in sport fishery. It attains a length of maximum 11cm normally available at 4 to 5cm. Aquarists like this fish for aquarium.

51. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Macrognathus pancalus
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Spiny eel

LOCAL NAME

Gaicha

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Synbranchiformes
Sub order	Mastacembeloidae
Family	Mastacembelidae
Genus	<i>Macrognathus</i>
Species	<i>pancalus</i>



Macrognathus pancalus

Habits and habitat

It is found in all over Bihar state. Occurs in tanks, pools, beels and floodplain area, inhabits in stagnant and running water and also found in shallow and slow water with muddy bottom, found in rivers and canals too. Mostly found in Gaya, Aurangabad, Rohtas, Bhojpur, Patna, Bhagalpur, Vaishali, Kaimur and other districts of Bihar.

Salient features

Body is elongated and cylindrical. It has yellowish green colour on dorsal and belly is olive or yellow in colour, with many white spots on flank and with dark brown vertical band continued to posterior half of the body. Pectoral and caudal fins are very small in size. Dorsal and anal fins are soft and long with many dusky black spots. Male is more cylindrical than female fish. This species is small in size. It feeds on aquatic insects, crustaceans, worm, and larvae. It is slow mover and in column and bottom feeds. It attains a length of 9-10cm. But in other states it is found for a length of 18-20cm

52. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Mastacembelus armatus
(Lacepede, 1800)

COMMON NAME

Long eel

LOCAL NAME

Bami

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Synbranchiformes
Family	Mastacembelidae
Genus	<i>Mastacembelus</i>
Species	<i>armatus</i>



Mastacembelus armatus

Habits and habitat

It is found in river, canal and floodplain area. It is also found in stagnant and running water, usually found in tanks, beels, streams with sandy bottom. It prefers sandy bottom and slow and shallow water, It is available in deep water. Reported in Ganga and Sone rivers and canals.

Salient features

Body is very long, round cylindrical. It has yellowish deep brown colour with irregular lines on flanks. It has many black bands on the dorsal part of body continued from head and along upper half on side. Dorsal fin is very soft with many rows of black spots. Pectoral fin is usually spotted and anal fin is banded or spotted. It is very long and looking fearfull fish as snake. it attains a length of 60-90cm. It has freely movement at night. It is omnivorous. It feeds on worms, insect larvae, and some submurged plant materials. This fish is having slow movement and is bottom feeders, catching and gluping smaller aquatic insects. Not breeds in capative condition.



53. SCIENTIFIC NAME *Channa striata*
(Bloch, 1793)

ENGLISH NAME Kobra snakehead

LOCAL NAME Shaura

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Perciformes
Sub order	Channoidei
Family	Channidae
Genus	<i>Channa</i>
Species	<i>striata</i>



Channa striata

Habits and habitat

It is found in ponds, tanks, floodplain areas, mauns and chauras, mostly found in stagnant water, ditches, old water lodged area with shrubs and muddy bottom, also found in swampy areas, inhabits to deep river and canals and usually found in Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Gopalganj, Siwan, Vaishali, Bhagalpur, Samstipur and other districts of Bihar.

Salient features

Body is long and round cylindrical and slimmy. It is greyish green in colour, ventral side is faint yellow with white or reddish flings. It has 5-6 dark black oval blotches on flank which is below lateral line between blotches, one black round blotch of bright white colour is found looking like cobra fin. Dorsal and anal fin has greyish colour with irregular small white spots. Pectoral fin is pale with reddish tinge. They are air breathing fish. The fish is very dangerous for culture and treat as predators. It is carnivorous. It feeds on insects, fish, snake, earthworm, tadpoles and crustaceans. It breeds almost throughout year with weed infested water and slow running water, youngone moves with parents. It attains a length of 60-75cm.



54. SCIENTIFIC NAME *Macrognathus aculeatus*
(Bloch & Scheider, 1801)

COMMON NAME Peacock eel

LOCAL NAME Pataya

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Perciformes
Sub order	Mastacembeloidei
Family	Mastacembelidae
Genus	<i>Macrognathus</i>
Species	<i>aral</i>



Macrognathus aculeatus

Habits and habitat

Inhabits in water lodged area, old ditches, ponds, tanks, maun and chauras. Found in slow and shallow river system. Always available in floodplain area, canals, found in clear stagnant and running water.

Salient features

Body is long and cylindrical. It is greenish on dorsal side and yellowish colour laterally along the abdomen. No pelvic fins, Dorsal and anal fins are very short in height and long fin continues with the small caudal fin. This is composed of isolated spinous rays. It comes from the series of depressible spines coming before time with soft dorsal and anal fins. The rostral appendage are fleshy. Two broad longitudinal bands extending along entire length above and below lateral line. There are many fin streaks on the dorsal fins. 5-7 black round spots with white boundary on the black on the back of dorsal side of tail is observed. It stays on the bottom and is slow mover. It feeds on mainly insects, worms, crustaceans (small) and its larvae. It attains a length of the 25-40cm. It is one of the popular fish in the trade.

**55. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Notopterus chitala
(Hamilton & Buchanan, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Clown featherback

LOCAL NAME

Chital, Chitala

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Osteoglossiformes
Sub order	Notopteroidei
Family	Notopteridae
Genus	<i>Notopterus</i>
Species	<i>chitala</i>



Notopterus chitala

Habits and habitat

It is found in chaur, beels, tanks, reservoirs, and floodplain area. Inhabits in rivers and canals of district Kisanganj, Araria, Bhagalpur, Madhubani, Buxar, Rohtas, Champaran and other parts of Bihar and usually found in flowing water with sandy, gravelly and rocky bottom.

Salient features

The body is deep and strong, laterally compressed. This fish is most attractive species. It has grey greenish colour on dorsa edge, silvery white with light blue on both sides. 6-8 royal blue black round spots with milky white boundary is found on the body upto tail region. This species has very long anal fin with grey greenish colour. Dorsal fin is small and strong streaks like feather in centre of the back. Caudal fin is small. Pelvic fin is incompletely developed, head compressed, posterior middle and front portion oddly upward. It is not very active and move mostly at night. It feeds on small aquatic insects, small fish, algae, aquatic plants, carnivorous in nature. Adult fish attains a length of about 120cm. This fish breeds in running water in the rainy season.

56. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Notopterus notopterus
(Pallas, 1769)

COMMON NAME

Knife fish

LOCAL NAME

Moai

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Osteoglossiformes
Sub order	Notopteroidei
Family	Notopteridae
Genus	<i>Notopterus</i>
Species	<i>notopterus</i>



Notopterus notopterus

Habits and habitat

It is found in sub-mountain range. Found in clear water with sandy and rocky bottom. Mostly found in Sone and Ganga rivers and its branches of canals, found in floodplain area, beels,chaurs. It is also found in deep stagnant and flowing water.

Salient features

The body is laterally compressed, gradually tapers posteriorly. It is grey greenish on top of dorsal. Across dorsal ridge, there are 15-16 transverse bands in silvery white colour, extending from head region up to the caudal peduncle lateral side is brilliant silvery white. The head is down and tail is up. The head itself taking a line through the nose, eye and gill plate. It is about horizontal, while body from this point, shoots upward. This species has peculiar characteristics and is easily identified by very long anal fin in grey green colour. At the centre of the back, is small dorsal fin with hard thick 3 rays only one genera is found in Bihar. These are very similar species to Chitala. It is not very active. It feeds on insects, small fish, algae and crustaceans. It is omnivorous. It attains a common length of 60-70cm. This breeds in stagnant and flowing water with submerged vegetation during rainy season.

57. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Barilius bola
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON Name

Indian trout

Local Name Dariyae suhwa

Classification

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Balitoridae
Sub-family	Balitorinae
Genus	<i>Barilius</i>
Species	<i>bola</i>



Barilius bola

Habits and habitat

Occurs in rivers, canals and floodplain area. It inhabits in mountain streams with gravel and rocky bottom, distributed along rivers of Nepal and its associated canals of border area. Species is found in rivers and canals of Champaran, Kishanganj, Supaul, Araria, Madhubani and Sitamarhi districts of Bihar. Sometimes found in Buxar, Bhagalpur and Patna districts also. Now slowly disappearing from the north-Bihar districts.

Salient features

Body has light blue silvery colour on upper part and white silvery in lower part, the irregular deep spots are found on the dorsal part of the body above the lateral line. Fins are clear and white. Ventral fins are also present. They breed among thickest aquatic plant. Male is an aggressive driver therefore when breeding plenty of refuse should be available to the female. She deposits clear eggs. As there is no point to leaving the babies with parents, they may be as well be separated in the beginning. It is strictly carnivorous. It feeds on fish, insects and crustaceans. It is very sensitive and very quick in their movements. They will take aquatic animals but prosper best on live daphnia etc.

**58. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Barilus bendelisis
(Hamilton, 1807)

COMMON NAME

Hamilton's barila, Half banded barilius

LOCAL NAME

Suhwa, Khoksa, Joia

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cyprinidae
Genus	<i>Barilius</i>
Species	<i>bendelisis</i>



Barilus bendelisis

Habits and habitat

Inhabits in rivers and canals water, mostly found in mountain river from Nepal and clear water hill streams with sandy and gravelly bottom. This species is distributed in Rohtas, Champaran, Sitamarhi, Muzaffarpur, Madhubani, Kishanganj, Supaul and Araria districts of Bihar. Recorded in Gandak canal system in Champaran.

Salient features

Body elongated and laterally compressed. This is very attractive having brilliant blue along the dorsal side and silvery white both lateral side along belly. A series of 8-12 vertical half blue band extending from beyond the operculum region up to caudal peduncle are present along the lateral line. The fins are clear with olive colour at the bases with whitish tips. They breed among aquatic plant thickest area. This fish has a great preference for live food and ordinarily will not touch their eggs, unless forced by hunger. It feeds on insect, worms, and plankton. Most factor for this species is variation in bands with age. It attains a length of 10-12cm and maximum 15cm. In adult fish the belly, fins and tips attains reddish colour and intensity of colour denotes the level of sexual maturity

59. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Pisodonophis boro
(Hamilton & Buchanan, 1822)

COMMON NAME

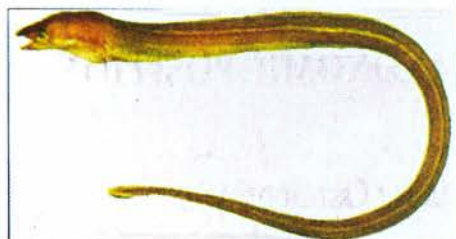
Rice paddy eel

LOCAL NAME

Glass eel, Dhankuti bami, Anahwa-saap

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Anguilliformes
Family	Ophichthidae
Genus	<i>Pisodonofis</i>
Species	<i>boro</i>



Pisodonophis boro

Habits and habitat

It is found in chauras, flood plain area, ditches, and paddy fields. Also found in river and canals. Mostly found in Ganga river entering through west Bengal's Farakka bandh and lagoon area. This fish prefers to live in standing water at bottom and within holes in the bank.

Salient features

The body is long, cylindrical, snake like and compressed all along extreme tail tip. It has deep red brownish colour and some fishes are in brownish in colour and ventral is lighter. Dorsal fin is short with black edges. It is omnivorous and slow mover. It feeds on insects, worms, crustaceans, algae and plant matters. This fish is found in very few number in water resources. Not breeds in captive condition. Some aquarist like it in big aquarium. It attains a length of 70cm and maximum of 100cm. There is huge demand of this fish in international market.

**60. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Labeo calbasu
(Hamilton Buchanan, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Calbasu

LOCAL NAME

Basari

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cyprinidae
Genus	<i>Labeo</i>
Species	<i>calbasu</i>



Labeo calbasu

Habits and habitat

Occurs in water bodies all over Bihar. It is found in ponds, tanks, chauras, beels and floodplain area. Also found in rivers and canals. Mostly found in Ganga river and its adjacent region. Inhabits in clear flowing and standing water.

Salient features

Body is longitudinal and laterally compressed. It has brownish colour, deep brownish black on the upper side above and olive white yellowish on the ventral side. Pectoral, dorsal, anal and caudal fins are present with white brownish colour. There are 3 pairs of barbels. This species is very active and column feeder. It feeds on insects, daphnia, rotifer worms and algae. They breed in pre-monsoon season at suitable temperature range 24-26°C. This can easily be bred in nature and also in captive condition. Spawn is attached to the plant substratum and after some days move freely in water. It attains a length of 60cm.

61. SCIENTIFIC NAME *Labeo bata*
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME Labeo

LOCAL NAME Bata

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cyprinidae
Sub family	Cyprininae
Genus	<i>Labeo</i>
Species	<i>bata</i>



Labeo bata

Habits and habitat

It is found in ponds, tanks, beels, chauras and inundated fields. Mostly found in Ganga, Sone river and distributed in other rivers and canals with slow flowing clear water. It is reported from Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Vaishali, Bhagalpur, Patna, Gaya, Rohtas, Bhojpur and other districts of Bihar.

Salient features

Body is elongated and cylindrical. It is very attractive with golden silvery colour, dark greenish on back, light reddish on flank and belly is of light colour. Fins hyaline with minute greenish on the base and transparent on the tip. Dorsal fin has 11-13 rays. Caudal fin is pointed, pectoral fins are light yellow in colour. Anal and pelvic fins are light red margin. Eyes are very beautiful with red ink colour and it is very attractive. It feeds on insects, larvae, rotifer, worms, and algae. It is fast mover and column feeder. This species breeds in Ganga and Sone river and young ones are distributed in other rivers and canals of Bihar. It is frequently bred in captive condition at temperature 25-26°C. It attains a length of 20-30cm.

**62. SCIENTIFIC NAME***Brachydanio rario***COMMON NAME**

Zebra danio

LOCAL NAME

Dharichela (Mosquito eater fish)

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cyprinidae
Sub family	Rasborinae
Genus	<i>Brachydanio</i>
Species	<i>rario</i>

*Brachydanio rario***Habits and habitat**

It is found in tanks, beels, chauras, ditches and inundated field. Mostly found in Ganga rivers and canals. This species lives in slow flowing water and also in stagnant water having floating plants. This species is reported in Patna, Vaishali, Bhagalpur, Aurangabad, Gaya, Rohtas, Buxar and other districts of Bihar.

Salient features

Body is short, thin and laterally compressed. It is very shining and attractive fish. It has silvery grey, flank light blue and belly is yellowish white in colour with 4 golden stripes from head to caudal fin. It can be distinguished most readily by prominent colour bands. Anal fin is fairly clear. Operculum with golden blotches. Eyes are very small and red in colour. Dorsal fin is light yellow and other fins are blue with white tips. It is hardy fish, shelters in aquatic weeds. They are slow mover. It feeds on insects, larvae, crustaceans, worms and mosquitos and so it can be used as mosquito control fish. This species easily breeds in monsoon season temperature at 24-25°C and successfully breed in captive condition. This species is in high demand in aquarium fish market and export to other countries. It attains a length of 4.5cm.

63. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Oreichthys cosuatis
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

High barb

LOCAL NAME

Potha

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cyprinidae
Genus	<i>Oreichthys</i>
Species	<i>cosuatis</i>



Oreichthys cosuatis

Habits and habitat

It is found in rivers, canals, inundated fields. Also found in reservoirs and chauras. Mostly found in Gandak near Triveni canal barrage of border of Nepal. This species is distributed in very few number in other rivers. It prefers clear flowing water with sandy and rocky bottom.

Salient features

Body is laterally compressed. It has complete silvery colour above grey greenish. Black spot is found on the base of caudal peduncle. Dorsal fin is long and turn back wards with diffuse but extensive black spots. Scales arranged with dark bases and makes a fish is unique among ornamental species. It is slow mover, hide in cave and the rocks. It feeds on insects, larvae, worms, and crustaceans. It prefers to stay in clear water with sandy bottom. It is in high demand in international market. It attains a length of 6-8cm.

64. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Chela laubca
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

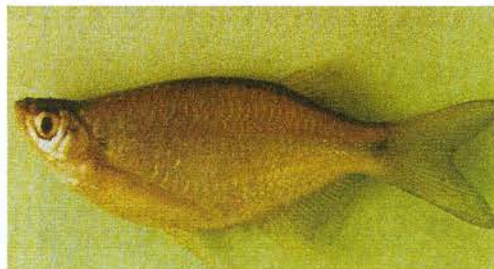
Indian hatchet fish

LOCAL NAME

Chela, Thukchatwa

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cyprinidae
Sub-family	Cultrinae
Genus	<i>Chela</i>
Species	<i>laubuca</i>



Chela laubca

Habits and habitat

It is found in rivers, canals, reservoirs, beels, and streams. Also found in tanks, floodplain area but also live in shallow area with sandy bottom. Recorded in Gandak, Ganga, and Sone river and associated canals.

Salient features

Fish is very fancy and shining due to the presence of glittering silvery scales, back dark and belly is whitish. A shining greenish band above the lateral line is found. Fins are transparent and light yellowish in colour. Dorsal fin present but raised down to the dorsal part near to caudal fin. Anal fin is long and reach to the caudal peduncle. Pectoral fins are small. Head compressed middle portion is downward and front portion oddly upward. It is very active and moves in group. It is surface feeder and always found moving in surface. This fish easily breeds in tanks, rivers and canals in late monsoon season. It feeds on insects, small crustaceans, algae, plant matter. It is very beautiful shoaling fish and likely by aquarist. A very few number of this fish is found in nature but always looking in Triveni canal barage Valmikinagar near submountain of Nepal. It attains a length of 5-6cm.

**65. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Pangasius pangasius
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Pungas, Yellow cat fish

LOCAL NAME

Pangash

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Siluriformes
Family	Pangasidae
Genus	<i>Pangasius</i>
Species	<i>pangasius</i>



Pangasius pangasius

Habits and habitat

It is found in ponds, tanks, chauras and beels. Reported from Samastipur, Siwan, Muzaffarpur, Vaishali, East Champaran and some other districts of Bihar. This species lives in stagnant water and flowing water with sandy bottom. Inhabits in deep water.

Salient features

Body is elongated, moderately compressed and fine smooth skin. Two pairs of maxillary barbels are long. Mouth is fairly wide. Dorsal fin modified into spine but spine is very weak. Caudal fin is deeply forked. It has silvery white with brownish greenish back yellowish dusky vent. Flanks are very clear. 3 pairs of barbels are present. Fins are with yellow white. It is fast mover and voracious feeder. It feeds on small fishes, insects, molluscs, crustaceans, tadpoles and plant matters. This fish is looking beautiful and attractive in small size for aquarium. Fish breeds in captive condition. It is in high demand in ornamental fish trade market. A good sport fish. It attains a length of maximum 1.5m.

66. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Badis assamensis
(Ahl, 1937)

COMMON NAME

Scarlet badis

LOCAL NAME

Bhotkoia

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Perciformes
Sub-order	Percoidei
Family	Nandidae
Sub family	Badinae
Genus	<i>Badis</i>
Species	<i>assamensis</i>



Badis assamensis

Habits and habitat

It is found in Ganga and Sone rivers and canals. Occurs in floodplain area, beels, and chauras. Mostly found in river and canal with clear and sandy bottom. Also inhabits in flowing and stagnant water system.

Salient features

Body is rough and laterally compressed. It has amazing range of pigmentation. Colour often changes rapidly. Body scales having brownish and blue or dark colour. It has alternate bands of brown and blue. Fins are light grey-green. Dorsal part of the body is curved from head to tail. Dorsal fin is long and hard. Caudal fin is soft and round. It is very shy fish. It is very active and move in group. It is column and bottom feeder. It feeds on worms, aquatic insects, crustaceans, mosquito and larvae. This species easily breeds in river in pre-monsoon season. It attains a length of 4-5cm.

**67. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Dario devario
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Devario danio

LOCAL NAME

Potasi

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cyprinidae
Sub family	Rasborinae
Genus	<i>Danio</i>
Species	<i>devario</i>



Dario devario

Habits and habitat

It is found in ponds, tanks, beels, chauras and reservoirs. Inhabits clear flowing water. Occurs in rivers, stream and canals with sandy and clayey bottom. Also found in water logged area with aquatic weeds or plants. Most common in flowing water then in reservoirs and in inundated field.

Salient features

The body has brilliant greenish colour along the upper side with silvery colour below belly. Anterior part of the body is reticulated at centre by steel blue bands divided from each part by narrow vertical yellow lines. There are 3 bluish lines divided by yellow ones extending backward to caudal fin. It is omnivorous. It feeds on crustaceans, insects, larvae and plant matters. It moves very actively. Aquarist likes in aquarium and is very popular in international market. It breeds in early monsoon May- June at 25-26°C. in clear water. The parents should be removed after spawning. The young ones are free swimmer. It attains a length of 10cm.

**68. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

(Mc Celelland, 1839)

*Nemacheilus ruppeli***COMMON NAME**

Long snouted loach

LOCAL NAME

Hara baghi

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Botitoridae
Sub family	Nemacheilinae
Genus	<i>Nemacheilus</i>
Species	<i>ruppeli</i>

*Nemacheilus ruppeli***Habits and habitat**

Occurs in upland water system, clear water with sandy bottom. It is found in ponds, chaur, beels, floodplain area, pools and reservoirs. Also found in muddy and water with plants. This endemic variety of Bihar is easily found in altitude areas of Gandak (Triveni canal, Balmikinagar) river. This species is reported from east and west Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Samastipur districts. It is found in lotic and lentic water system.

Salient features

The body is elongated, rounded cylindrical without scales. Finrays are spineless. The body is greyish above and olive below with dark vertical bands, are not extending to ventral surface and half of the body is irregularly arranged bands. Caudal fin is with 4-5 rows of dots appearing as a deep greenish line. Light black spots on the dorsal fin. Snout is long and slope to mouth. Together with the movements and adaptations, the colour pattern makes this fish very attractive in aquarium tanks. It is found in narrow streams having muddy substratum and with less velocity and also in torrential streams of high water velocity having cobbles or gravelled substratum. It is suitable for community culture and omnivorous in feeding habitat. It is sluggish, found attached to the substratum. It breeds in early summer (June-May) till now is not attempted to breed in captive condition. It attains a length of 4.5cm.

**69. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Olyra longicaudata
(Mc Celelland, 1842)

COMMON NAME

Long fighting cat fish

LOCAL NAME

Jhalar tail fish

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Siluriformes
Family	Olyridae
Genus	<i>Olyra</i>
Species	<i>longicaudata</i>



Olyra longicaudata

Habits and habitat

Occurs in Ganga, Sone rivers and their canals. Also found in floodplain area, ditches and reservoirs. It is mainly an inhabitant of canals of Nepal border of Bihar. This fish is identified in Triveni canal (Gandak), East Champaran district.

Salient features

The body has uniformly yellowish colour. A dark longitudinal band along the lateral line expanding into a conspicuous shoulder blotch just below the dorsal fin. Fins are of light brownish colour. Anal fin is clear with soft 7 rays. Dorsal fin is short with rays. Barbel is present but short in size. Caudal soft rays and truncate, upper side fin is long and first ray is very long. It is active in night. It is carnivorous and recommended for monoculture. It feeds on crustaceans, insects and scarp fishes. It prefer to live in caves. It likes to live in current water but breeds in slow flowing water with full of plants but does not breed in capative condition. It's sizes are suitable for aquarium. It attains a length of 11.0cm.

70. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Pseudeutropius atherinoides
(Bloch, 1794)

COMMON NAME

Indian potasi

LOCAL NAME

Patosi

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Siluriformes
Family	Schilbeidae
Sub family	Schilbeinae
Genus	<i>Pseudeutropius</i>
Species	<i>atherinoides</i>



Pseudeutropius atherinoides

Habits and habitat

It is found in ponds, beels, chauras, ditches, floodplain area, canals and rivers. Mainly found in Ganga, Sone and Gandak rivers with sandy and muddy bottom. It is distributed in Rohtas, Aurangabad, Kaimur, Bhojpur, Patna, Champaran, (east and west) districts of Bihar.

Salient features

The body is usually elongated and laterally compressed without scales. It has a very attractive bright silvery greenish colour. There are 3 to 4 longitudinal bands on flank. A faint pale stripe along lateral line ending in a dusky spot at base of caudal fin. Usually a brownish black spot on nape and in front of dorsal fin. It has 3 pairs of barbels, two small and one pair long. Nasal barbel is present. Anal fin is long, not confluent with caudal fin. Fins are hyaline. It has moderate movement, surface and column feeder. It is omnivorous. It feeds on insect, larvae and plant matters. It breeds in slow flowing water with plants and hard bottom. Fish lay out the eggs in 60-80 numbers and very small in size. It breeds in early monsoon May-June at 25-26°C. This species is not known to breed in captive condition. Its bright colour and small size has attracted the aquarist. It attains a length of 15cm.

**71. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Botia rostrata
(Gunther, 1868)

COMMON NAME

Geto loach

LOCAL NAME

Baghi

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cobitidae
Sub-family	Cobitidae
Genus	<i>Botia</i>
Species	<i>rostrata</i>



Botia rostrata

Habits and habitat

It is found in ponds, tanks, chauris, beels, floodplain areas and ditches. Inhabits in rivers, canals, and stream. Occurs in lotic and lentic water system with muddy and sandy bottom. Distributed in east and west Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Gopalganj, Siwan and Saran districts of Bihar.

Salient features

The body is elongated and cylindrical. It has brownish colour with yellow or light yellow spots of different sizes with many spots on the head. It has 3 bands on the caudal fin. Fins are hyaline and spotted. One pair of short barbels adorn the mouth. It feeds on crustaceans, insects, daphnia, worms and plant matters. It eats at night, refusing even daphnia in daytime, on the other hand it has an advantage over most of the other loaches, because of small size. A most difficult fish to catch in water bodies. It is very active in night. They breed in late summer. It attains a length of 5cm.

**72. SCIENTIFIC NAME**

Danio dangila
(Hamilton Buchanan, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Gaint leopard danio

LOCAL NAME**CLASSIFICATION**

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cyprinidae
Sub family	Rasborinae
Genus	<i>Danio</i>
Species	<i>dangila</i>



Danio dangila

Habits and habitat

Occurs in beels, chauras, flood plain area and reservoir. It is mostly found in hill stream with gravelly bottom. Also found in Gandak and Sone river. It is distributed in West Champaran, Rohats, Aurangabad and Kaimur districts.

Salient features

The body is elongated and laterally compressed. The body has olive on back along the lateral side with silvery colour below and there are 3-4 shining blue lines which in the anterior half or two third of the body along with caudal fin form a beautiful network. A dusky white spot on the lateral part of the body and dusky spots on upper angle of gill opening. Anal fins long and continued to with two or three stripes. All fins are transparent. This species has longest pair of barbels among *Danio sp.* enables it to be easily identified. It is very active and fast mover. It is omnivorous. It feeds on insects, plant matters, algae, larvae, worms and daphnia. They breed in late summer season at 20-24°C. It breeds in captive condition. The brood fish do not usually eat their eggs until the egg laying is finished at which time the breeders should be removed, as most fishes prefer eating daphnia rather than their own eggs. It breeds in cave or clump of plants. It attains a length of 12-15cm.

73. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Garra gotyla gotyla
(Gray, 1830)

COMMON NAME

Brown algae eater

LOCAL NAME

Gbogali

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cyprinidae
Sub family	Garrinae
Genus	<i>Garra</i>
Species	<i>gotyla-gotyla</i>



Garra gotyla gotyla

Habits and habitat

It is distributed in the upstreams of rivers Ganga and Sone. Also found in canals, floodplain areas and ditches. This species is found both in lotic and lentic water system. However, it is normally seen to occur at the bottom. This species was recorded only from two river Sone (near Indrapuri barrage Dehri on-sone) Ganga (near Buxar Ujjar Ghats).

Salient features

The body is usually rounded, cylindrical with scales. It has dark brown on back, belly light pink, a dusky spots behind upper angle of gill opening. Dorsal fin is with 8-10 rows of dots appearing as a dark brownish line. A dark line runs at the base of dorsal peduncle. Fins are yellowish grey. This species can be easily distinguished from its relatives by the presence of well developed median proboscis without any lateral lobes on the snout. Male with prominent tubercles and snout. It feeds on daphnia or mosquito larvae, algae and plant matters, earthworm, scraped fish. This species breeds in May-June at 24-26°C. It breeds in flowing water with sandy bottom. It is slow mover, it is column and bottom feeder. This fish likes to stay in weedy site. It attains a length of 12-14cm.

74. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Aplocheilus panchax
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Blue Panchax

LOCAL NAME

Panchax

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cyprinodontiformes
Family	<i>Aplocheilidae</i>
Genus	<i>Aplocheilus</i>
Species	<i>panchax</i>



Aplocheilus panchax

Habits and habitat

Occurs throughout Bihar, in ponds, chauris, beels, ditches and floodplain area. It is found in Ganga, Sone, Gandak, Kosi river and their associated canals. Inhabits clear, shallow water at low altitudes. These fishes are collected from Triveni canal, Balmikinagar borders of Nepal

Salient features

This is small fish in this family. It attains a maximum length of 9.0 cm. The body is usually round, cylindrical with large scales usually cycloid. It is fusiform and compressed, upper jaw protrusible. Upper side of the body has greenish blue becoming dull white or bluish on the belly. Dorsal fin raises beyond tail. Dorsal fin has yellowish with a large black blotch at base. Tail fin is a double bordered dark with white and oval shaped. Anal fin has orange at base, reddish with dark spot on outer parts. Pelvic fins have hyaline. Pectoral fin is present with dark spots. Male is often brightly coloured and female is rather colourless. Lateral line chiefly on head. It is a larvivorous fish and its utility for mosquito control has been established. It breeds in late monsoon season (July-August) at 24-25°C with flowing water and sandy bottom. These are free to move in water in search of foods. It attains a length of 9 cm.

**75. SCIENTIFIC NAME***Ompak bimaculatus*

(Bloch, 1794)

COMMON NAME

Shovel Mouth Catfish

LOCAL NAME

Palwa

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Siluriformes
Family	Siluridae
Genus	<i>Ompak</i>
Species	<i>bimaculatus</i>

*Ompak bimaculatus***Habits and habitat**

Occurs throughout Bihar, in ponds, chauras, beels, ditches and floodplain area. It is found in Ganga, Sone, Gandak, Kosi river and their associated canals. Inhabits in streams of river of all sizes with currents ranging from sluggish to moderate.

Salient features

The body is elongated with compressed head. The base colour of the body is silver with a conspicuous round black blotch above and behind the pectoral fin base. The second of the two spots is at the base of the caudal peduncle, hence the species name *bimaculatus*. It has two pairs barbels, one pair well developed. Anal fin is long attached to caudal fin. Dorsal fin reduces and short and moderately short and strong spine. No adipose fin, pectoral fin with spine. It is very active at night with moderate movement. It feeds on crustaceans, molluscs, small fishes and insects. It breeds during monsoon season (June-July) in confined water. It grows upto a length of 45cm.

76. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Nangra nangra
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Kosi nangra

LOCAL NAME

Tengasi

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Siluriformes
Family	Sisoridae
Genus	<i>Nangra</i>
Species	<i>nangra</i>



Nangra nangra

Habits and habitat

This species is distributed in East and West Champaran, Saharsa, Madhepura, Buxar, Bhagalpur, Patna, Hajipur districts of Bihar. Inhabits in running and stagnant water. Usually found in streams and rivers with sandy, pebbles, and gravelly bottom. Also occurs in muddy bottom. This fish is reported to occur in floodplain area, ditches and canals during the monsoon season.

Salient features

Body is elongated. It has four pair of barbels, one pair barbels on upper jaw and other three pairs barbels on lower jaw. The body has coppery, glossed with gold on sides. Caudal fin is deeply forked. This fish is also used as food. It is canivorous. It feeds on crustaceans, insects, small fishes, earthworms and molluscs. It breeds in slow flowing water with sandy or gravelly bottom. These fishes are found in very few numbers in nature. It attains a length of 6.0 cm.

77. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Ctenops nobilis
(Mc.Clelland, 1845)

COMMON NAME

Indian paradise fish

LOCAL NAME

Noble Gorami

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Perciformes
Family	Osphronemidae
Genus	<i>Ctenops</i>
Species	<i>nobilis</i>



Ctenops nobilis

Habits and habitat

This fish is available in Ganga, Sone, Kosi, and Gandak rivers and its canals. It is found in ponds, pools, ditches, inundated field, beels and chauras with muddy bottom and like to live in water filled with plants and weeds.

Salient features

The body is elongated and relatively compressed. Head acute and depressed. Lower jaw longer and somewhat pipe shaped. Eyes prominent. One black spot surrounded with white colour exists near caudal fin on peduncle. Fins are hyaline with brown dusky spots. Anal fin is long. Dorsal fin has raised to back on tail side. It is very active and fast mover. It is surface and column feeder. It feeds on daphnia, larvae, crustaceans. This fish eats only larvae and is called larvivorous. It breeds in slow flowing water in monsoon (24-25°C). An attractive, vigorous well known aquarium fish.

78. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Chela dadiburjori
(Menon, 1952)

COMMON NAME

Orange Chela

LOCAL NAME

Chelwa

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Cyprinidae
Sub family	Cultrinae
Genus	<i>Chela</i>
Species	<i>dadiburjori</i>



Chela dadiburjori

Habits and habitat

It is found in rivers, canals, reservoirs and streams. Also found in floodplain area, beels and pools. Live in shallow area and flowing water with gravelly and sandy bottom. This species is reported in Gandak river and its branches. Occurs in Ganga basin area, inundated fields. Mostly found in East Champaran districts of Bihar and border area of Nepal.

Salient features

It is a small fish with typical treamlined shape. This fish is very attractive, having brilliant blue bands on the lateral line and silvery white along the belly. A series of 4-5 black spots on the lateral stripe along middle of body. Dorsal fin present but raised down to the dorsal part near the caudal fin. Adult fish has orange colour, fins are transparent with orange colour. This fish is very small in size. It is slow mover, bottom and column feeder. It is omnivorous. It feeds on insects, crustaceans, algae and plant matters. It breeds in monsoon season at 22-25°C in canals and floodplain area. It does not breed in captive condition. It attains a length of 3.0 cm.

79. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Hara hara
(Hamilton, 1822)

COMMON NAME

Butter fly catfish

LOCAL NAME

Telia Machhali

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Siluriformes
Family	Sisoridae
Genus	<i>Hara</i>
Species	<i>hara</i>



Hara hara

Habits and habitat

It is found in rivers, canals, reservoirs, floodplain area and ditches. It prefers river with sandy and gravelly bottom. Occurs in lentic water system. Distribution in Rohtas, Kaimur, Aurangabad and Buxar districts of Bihar.

Salient features

Body is elongated. It has 4 pairs of barbels and annulated. Body leather skin is thickened with rough. It has yellowish brown with many deep brown blotches looking like a cross bands on the dorsal surface and dark black blotch at end of the adipose fin. Ventral part of the body is olive and fins are not white as shown here but translucent with black mark. Not a very active in daytime but active at night. It is omnivorous and good algae eater. It is bottom feeder. It is found attached to the substratum. It breeds in slow flowing and clear water with sandy bottom. Breed in late monsoon. Male cares the eggs, crudely fanning for the incubation period of 8 days. He cleans them with his mouth, removing fungus if any. It attains a length of 2.5cm.

80. SCIENTIFIC NAME

Botia striata
(Narayan Rao, 1920)

COMMON NAME

Striped loach

LOCAL NAME

Dhariwala Baghi

CLASSIFICATION

Class	Osteichthyes
Sub-Class	Actinopterygii
Order	Cypriniformes
Family	Botiidae
Sub family	Botinae
Genus	<i>Botia</i>
Species	<i>striata</i>



Botia striata

Habits and habitat

Ocuurs in North Bihar, all along the Gandak and Gangetic rivers attached with canals. It is found in ponds, beels, floodplain area and ditches with muddy plants. It is also found in clear water with sandy bottom. Reported from Champaran east and west, Gopalganj, Siwan and Muzaffarpur districts of Bihar.

Salient features

Body is elongated, cylindrical without scales and finrays which are spineless. This species has a peculiar colour pattern. It has golden yellow colour with greyish blue vertical bands. Every two bands are closely narrowing down on ventral side. 9-10 bands crossed the dorsal side. Fins have light black spots and are very soft. Head is marked with reticulated network of bands which make the fish very attractive in an aquarium. It is an omnivorous. Feeds on crustaceans, larvae and plant matters. By nature, it is a shy fish, largely nocturnal. The fish has a quite habit, alarming when first seen. They breed in a planted pool during late summer season. It attains a length of 3.5cm.