

Western Regional Centre

Zoological Survey of India, Pune, Maharashtra



Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests

The Indian Peninsula is a complex natural unit of geomorphological and biogeographical evolution. The area south of the Narmada River known as Deccan Plateau is by far the most extensive biogeographic zone of Indian region. This large zone is relatively homogenous and is distinct from the neighbouring zones- the Western Ghats, Semi-arid and Gangetic Plain. It is further recognizable into five subdivisions viz. Deccan Plateau South, Deccan Plateau North, Eastern Highlands, Chota Nagpur and Central Highlands. The Deccan Plateau is a conglomeration of different types of ecosystems embracing myriad of biological wealth. The Western Ghats or “*Sahyadri*” running parallel to the west coast of India is one of the biodiversity hotspots of India. The part of the Western Ghats between Tapi River in north and Trekhol creek, Goa in south is geologically very distinct and unique. It is commonly referred to as Northern Western Ghats and extends across three states viz. Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa.

The Western Regional Centre at Pune, Maharashtra was established in September 1959 under the Second Five Year Plan of the Government of India. It is one among the sixteen Regional Centres of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), the internationally acclaimed taxonomic organization of the country.

The jurisdictional limit of the Centre encompasses the entire state of Maharashtra and Goa, Karnataka (4 districts) and Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli. The Centre is engaged in the documentation of rich and diverse faunal resources of the area under jurisdiction by conducting field explorations and scientific studies.



Major Programmes Undertaken

- ▶ Fauna of India: (Scorpionida)
- ▶ Fauna of Melghat Tiger Reserve, District Amravati
- ▶ Pench National Park, District Nagpur
- ▶ Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, District Chandrapur
- ▶ Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivali Mumbai
- ▶ Ujani Wetland, District Solapur
- ▶ Nath Sagar (Jaikawadi) Wetland, District Aurangabad and Ahmed nagar
- ▶ Fauna of Lonar Wildlife Sanctuary
- ▶ Fauna of Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary
- ▶ State Fauna of Goa
- ▶ Fauna of Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary
- ▶ Fauna of Chandoli National Park
- ▶ State Fauna of Maharashtra

Areas Surveyed

Areas surveyed include the Tiger Reserves viz. Melghat, Tadoba-Andhari; the National Parks, Pench Sanjay Gandhi and Chandoli; the Wildlife Sanctuaries Lonar, Bhimashankar and Radhanagari; the Wetlands of national importance, Ujani Wetland and Nath Sagar (Jaikawadi) Wetland, the Goa State. Besides, rapid surveys were undertaken in majority of the districts in Maharashtra and a few districts in Karnataka and Gujarat states.



Major scientific contributions

New Discoveries: Over 80 (fishes, amphibians, insects and arachnids) were described as new to science by the scientists of the Centre.

Available Taxonomic Expertise

Taxonomic expertise on Birds, Reptiles, Amphibia, Pisces, Insect orders viz. Lepidoptera, Diptera (Cecidomyiidae), Mantodea, Orthoptera (Acrididae), Odonata and Hymenoptera (Vespoidea). Soil arthropods, Crustacea, Cladocera, Fresh water Crabs, Marine Foulers and Wood boring animals are available currently at the Centre.



National Zoological Collection (NZC)

The NZCs maintained at the Centre contain 43,986 identified specimens, including vertebrates and invertebrates. The collection also includes donated specimens from individuals and other institutes.



Modern Infrastructure and Advanced Research facilities

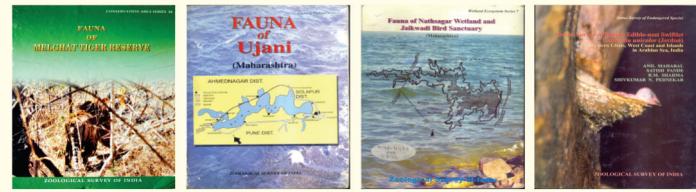
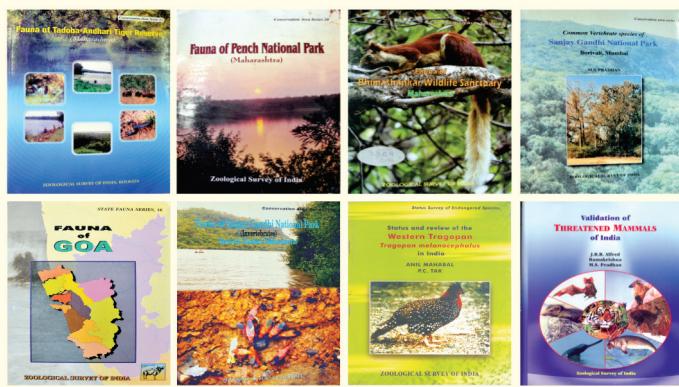
The Centre is equipped with Compact Insect Storage Systems for storing insect collections. The major recent additions to the Centre include DNA Finger Printing Laboratory with advanced technology.



Publications

15 Books & over 600 papers were published in various national/ international journals by the scientists of the Centre.

- Fauna of Melghat Tiger Reserve
- Fauna of Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve
- Fauna of Nathsagar Wetland
- Fauna of Ujani Wetland
- Fauna of Pench National Park
- Fauna of Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary
- Fauna of Sanjay Gandhi National Park 1
- Fauna of Goa
- Fauna of Lonar Wildlife Sanctuary
- Fauna of Sanjay Gandhi National Park 2
- Status survey of Western Tragopan
- Status survey of Indian Edible Nest Swiftlet
- Status survey of Otomops Wroughtoni
- Validation of Threatened Mammals



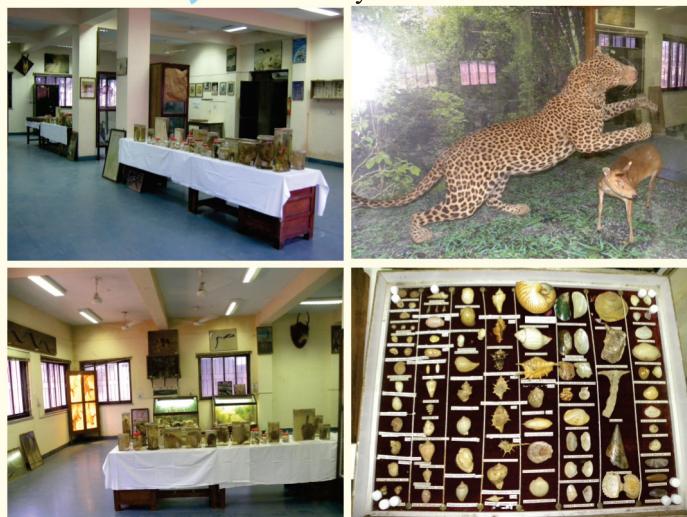
Library

The library holds 4103 books on various aspects of Zoology and 22 journals/periodicals are being subscribed.



Museum

The museum of the Centre displays 533 examples of the varied regional fauna including crustaceans, arachnids, insects, molluscs, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals to educate the people and to generate public awareness towards biodiversity and its conservation.



Other Extension activities

Identification and advisory services are rendered on regular basis to students, researchers, teachers from colleges, universities and scientists from other institutes, besides law enforcing agencies like State Forest and Wildlife Department and State Police are provided with certification of identification of the confiscated animal material under illegal trade.

Talks/lectures on various subjects related to faunal diversity and biodiversity conservation are delivered on request to the students as well as school/college teachers.

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