



Desert Regional Centre

Zoological Survey of India, Jodhpur, Rajasthan



Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests



The Desert Regional Centre of the Zoological Survey of India, Jodhpur was established in June, 1960 in the name of Desert and Gangetic Plains Regional Station under Second Five Year Plan to survey the faunal diversity of Desert Biome. Later, in 1965 due to the characteristic changes in its boundaries, it was renamed as at present. The Jurisdiction of the Centre is spread over 3,42,239 sq km area of Rajasthan and 1,81,100 sq km of Gujarat, covering 33 districts of Rajasthan and 25 districts of Gujarat. The Centre is engaged in the documentation of the rich and diverse faunal resources of the Rajasthan and Gujarat state, by conducting field explorations and scientific studies.



Major Programmes undertaken

- Termite Fauna of Gujarat and Rajasthan.
- Status Survey of Chinkara and Desert Cat in Rajasthan.
- Studies on Plant and Soil Nematodes associated with crops of economic importance in Gujarat.
- Ants (Formicidae) of Rajasthan.
- Studies on Ants (Formicidae) Fauna of Gujarat.
- Qualitative and Quantitative studies of Plant and Soil Nematodes associated with crops of economic importance in Rajasthan.
- Faunal Exploration of Tal Chhapar Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan.
- Faunal Exploration of Sariska Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan.

- Faunal exploration of Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan.
- Fauna of Desert National Park, Rajasthan.
- Fauna of Sambhar Lake, Rajasthan.
- Fauna of Pichhola Lake, Rajasthan.
- Fauna of Nal Sarovar Wetland, Gujarat.
- Fauna of Ranthambhore National Park, Rajasthan.
- Faunal survey of important congregative bird areas (Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary and Marine National Park) in Gujarat.
- Dung beetles of Thar Desert of Gujarat.
- Diversity of Helminth Fauna of Rajasthan.
- Vertebrate Faunal Diversity *w.s.r.* to Avian and Mammalian fauna of the Sardar Samand Reservoir, Rajasthan.
- Studies on Odonata and Lepidoptera fauna of foothills of Aravalli Range, Rajasthan.
- Faunal exploration of Sitamata Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan.
- Taxonomical study of aquatic nematodes of lakes of Udaipur.

Areas Surveyed

Since its inception, the DRC has been surveying various districts of Rajasthan and Gujarat. The faunal exploration which includes both extensive and intensive surveys, has produced lot of study material representing all the Classes of Vertebrates and most of the orders of Invertebrate phyla.



Major Scientific Contributions

New discoveries

So far 68 species (Acarina, Isoptera, Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Hymenoptera, Thysanoptera, Nematodes and Reptilia) were described as new to science by the scientists of the Centre.

Available Taxonomic Expertise

Taxonomic expertise on Mammals, Birds, Pisces, Odonata, Lepidoptera and Nematodes are available currently at the Centre.



National Zoological Collection (NZC)

The NZCs maintained at the Centre contain 12,252 identified specimens, including both invertebrates and vertebrates.



Modern Infrastructure and Advanced Research facilities

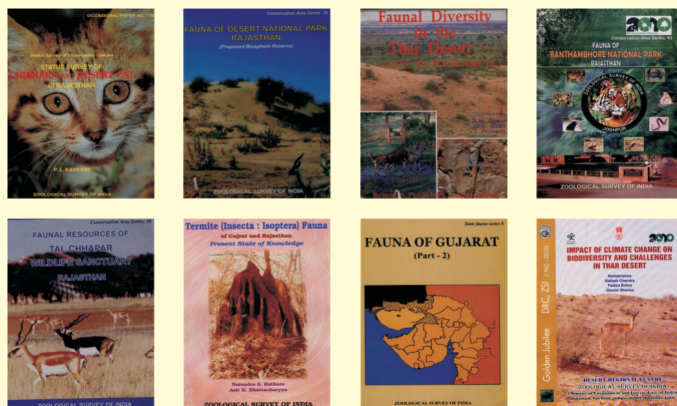
The Centre is equipped with compact Insect Storage system for housing insect collections.

Publications

22 Books and 676 research papers were published in various national/international journals by the scientists of the Centre.

- Fauna of India- Coleoptera (Family Gyrinidae and Family Haliplidae).
- Fauna of Indian Reptilia (3 Volumes: Testudines and Crocodilians, Sauria and Serpentes)
- Fauna of Gujarat (Part-I & II).
- Faunal Diversity in the Thar Desert-Gaps in Research.
- Handbook on Indian Lizards.
- Bibliography of Rajasthan Fauna.
- Fauna of Pichhola Lake, Rajasthan.
- Fauna of Sambhar Lake, Rajasthan.
- Fauna of Nal Sarovar Wetland, Gujarat.
- Status survey of Chinkara and Desert Cat

- Termite (Insecta : Isoptera) Fauna of Gujarat and Rajasthan.
- Geospatial atlas for the wetland birds of Thar Desert, Rajasthan.
- Studies on Ants (Formicidae) Fauna of Gujarat.
- Dung beetles of Thar Desert of Gujarat.
- Habitat suitability analysis of Chinkara, *Gazella bennetti* in Rajasthan.
- Fauna of Desert National Park, Rajasthan.
- Faunal Resources of Tal Chhaper Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan.
- Fauna of Ranthambhore National Park.
- Pictorial Handbook on Plant and Soil Nematodes of Rajasthan.



Library

The Library of the Centre has acquired 3,406 books and 21 Journals/ periodicals are subscribed.

Museum

Exhibits, models and posters pertaining to the fauna of Rajasthan and Gujarat are in display at the Natural History Museum of the Centre, for generating public awareness towards biodiversity conservation.

Other Extension activities

Identification and advisory services are offered to students, researchers and scientists of other institutes. The facilities are also availed by Rajasthan and Gujarat State Forest Department for identification of confiscated specimens of insects, reptiles, birds and mammals. 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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