



Southern Regional Centre

Zoological Survey of India
Chennai, Tamil Nadu



Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests

The “Indoralian Biotic Province” existed in the early Permian era (299-270 Million Years Ago- MYA) includes peninsular Indian faunas and floras. Faunal relics of Permian period have been unearthed steadily in a place like Ariyalur in central part of the Tamil Nadu state. Besides, both the Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats confluence at the Nilgiri Hill range on north western part of Tamil Nadu unravel ‘Gondwana biota’. Given the unique biogeographic position within India, the Southern Regional Centre, Zoological Survey of India based in Chennai (=Madras) has been engaged to discover, describe and document the rich terrestrial and freshwater faunal resources of Southern India including the states of Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Kerala and southern parts of Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka.

The Southern Regional Centre, Chennai was established during the second Five Year Plan on 9th March 1961. The current jurisdiction of Southern Regional Centre encompasses Tamil Nadu State (32 districts with 5 National Parks, 21 Wildlife Sanctuaries and 1 Tiger Reserve), Karnataka (8 southern districts with 3 National Parks and 6 Wildlife Sanctuaries), southern Districts of Andhra Pradesh and the Union Territory of Puducherry (=Pondicherry). The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve encompassing Tamil Nadu, Kerala & Karnataka states comes under the jurisdiction of the Centre. The Centre has just celebrated 2011 as “Golden Jubilee Year”



Major Programmes undertaken

- ✦ Fauna of Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary
- ✦ Moth Flies and Sand Flies (Psychodidae : Diptera) of Tamil Nadu
- ✦ Herpetological survey of Nallamalai Hill ranges
- ✦ Studies on leafhoppers of agricultural importance in and around Chennai
- ✦ Studies on Pentatomid bugs of Tamil Nadu
- ✦ Studies on Jassids (Homoptera : Insecta) of India
- ✦ Limnological studies on freshwater lakes and ponds
- ✦ Bio ecology of paddy field frogs
- ✦ Ecological succession of Insect Fauna of Vandalur scrub jungle
- ✦ Studies on the Gryllidae (Insecta : Orthoptera) of Tamil Nadu
- ✦ Systematics and biology of Gobioid fishes of Ennore estuary
- ✦ Studies on the taxonomy and biology of thread-fin bream (Nemipterus) of the Madras coast
- ✦ MAB project on Ecology and distribution of freshwater Gastropods and their cercarial fauna.
- ✦ Multidisciplinary Expeditions to Silent Valley.
- ✦ District-wise Mopping Faunal survey of Tamil Nadu
- ✦ Fauna of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve
- ✦ Fauna of Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary
- ✦ Fauna of Kalakad Wildlife Sanctuary
- ✦ Studies on Membracidae (Homoptera: Insecta) of Southern India
- ✦ Studies on Millipedes of Tamil Nadu
- ✦ Studies on Scorpions of Tamil Nadu
- ✦ Studies on freshwater crabs of Tamil Nadu
- ✦ Studies on Freshwater molluscs of Tamil Nadu
- ✦ Studies on the Freshwater prawns of Tamil Nadu
- ✦ Ichthyofauna of Pennar River
- ✦ Ichthyofauna of Pondicherry
- ✦ Fauna of Bannerghatta National Park
- ✦ Fauna of Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Wildlife Sanctuary
- ✦ Fauna of Karnataka
- ✦ Fauna of Andhra Pradesh
- ✦ Fauna of Tamil Nadu
- ✦ Fauna of Southern Western Ghats
- ✦ Fauna of Eastern Ghats
- ✦ The fish faunal surveys of Cauvery river system
- ✦ Coordinated project on Pitchavaram Mangrove forests
- ✦ Faunistic survey of Javadi Hills
- ✦ Status survey of Non-Human Primates in Southern India
- ✦ Pre-inundation survey of Nagarjunakonda Reservoir
- ✦ Western Ghats Reptile and Amphibia surveys
- ✦ Survey of pests of weeds with special reference to pentatomid bugs

Areas Surveyed

The Centre has undertaken a series of faunal survey since its inception, some of the major studies are (i) Silent Valley Faunal Survey, (ii) Pitchavaram Mangroves Survey, (iii) Nilgiri Biosphere Survey, (iv) District-wise mopping survey of the Tamil Nadu state, (v) Karnataka state faunal survey. Currently the Eastern Ghats Faunal Survey and Andhra Pradesh state faunal surveys are being undertaken.

Major Scientific Contributions

New discoveries

The scientists of the Centre have discovered 226 new species from 122 new genera representing Insecta, Crustacea, Mollusca, Fish and Amphibia with the addition of 763 primary and secondary type specimens deposited at the Centre. Based on these new scientific contributions, fauna volumes, revisionary works and special issues on Silent Valley and Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve have been published by the scientists of the Centre.

Available taxonomic expertise

Planktons, Insects, Mollusca, Fishes, Amphibians, Reptiles, Birds and Mammals

National Zoological Collection (NZC)

The Centre is privileged to hold named collections of 1, 65, 000 specimens, type materials 1,477 that include primary and secondary type specimens.

Modern Infrastructure and Research Facilities available

The Centre has been endowed with excellent research facilities that include sophisticate and accurate image capturing and storage devise such as Leica M205-Stereoscope Microscope, Nikon i80 Microscope and Faceup Scanner. DNA laboratory for analyzing molecular markers used in animal taxonomy is under construction.

Publications

The scientists have published over 500 scientific papers in reputed Indian and International journals.

Fauna of India and Adjacent Countries

- ♦ Pisces (Cobitoidea : Homalopteridae)
- ♦ Pisces (Cobitoidea : Cobitidae)
- ♦ Diptera : Chloropidae
- ♦ Taxonomic re-assessment of the Phlebotomus argentipes species complex (Diptera : Psychodidae)

Occasional Papers

- ♦ Gymnophiona (Amphibia) of India- A Taxonomic Study
- ♦ Checklist of Freshwater Fishes of India
- ♦ Wetland Mosquito Fauna of Tamil Nadu



- ♦ Synoptic list of Nepomorpha (Hemiptera : Heteroptera) from India
- ♦ Ichthyofauna of Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary
- ♦ Fishes of River Pennar and its Branches

Conservation Area Series

- ♦ Fauna of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve
- ♦ Fauna of Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Reserve,

Karnataka

- ♦ Fauna of Bannerghatta National Park, Karnataka
- ♦ Faunal Diversity of Astamudi Wetlands, Kerala

State Fauna Series

- ♦ Fauna of Tamil Nadu

Hand Books and Pictorial Guides

- ♦ Birds of Chennai
- ♦ Marine Reptiles of India

Special Publications

- ♦ Threatened Fishes of India

Library

The library of the Centre is equipped with national and international journals of zoology including Zoological Records and 5022 books that are widely used by researchers and academicians.

Museum

Taxonomic groups of regional relevance have been displayed for the benefit of educational institutions, researchers and interested public.

Other extension activities

Identification and advisory service extended on various faunal components to individuals and agencies on request.

Zoological Survey of India

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