

# High Altitude Regional Centre

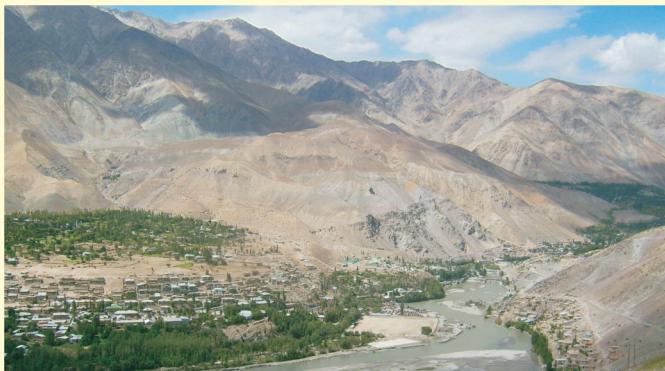
## Zoological Survey of India, Solan, Himachal Pradesh



Government of India  
Ministry of Environment and Forests

The mountainous states of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh constitute an area of about 84.5% of Western Himalaya of India. Located between 30° 22' 40"N - 37° 6' N latitude and between 72° 30' 20"E - 79° 04' 20"E longitudes and spread over an area of 2,77,909 km<sup>2</sup>, the rugged hilly states consist some of the highest mountains of the world. These high altitude areas with wide-ranging physiographic and biogeographic features harbor a rich biological wealth in the Himalayan region. The region supports a variety of endemic faunal diversity and has been recognized as an integral part of the Himalayan Biodiversity Hotspot.

The High Altitude Regional Centre at Solan, Himachal Pradesh came into existence in September 1968, under the fourth Five Year Plan of the Government of India, with the main objective of exploring the high altitude fauna. The jurisdiction of the Centre includes the states of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. With a vast altitudinal range from 600m asl to 6,500 m asl, the area under the Centre possesses a wide array of habitats from subtropical to temperate forests, scrublands to alpine grasslands, glaciers, high rainfall zones to dry cold deserts, fresh water reservoirs and lakes to high altitude brackish water lakes. The Centre is engaged in documentation of the rich, diverse faunal resources and reviewing the status of significant taxa of the fragile western Himalayan ecosystem in the states of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh by carrying out field explorations and scientific studies.



### Major Programmes undertaken

- Indo-Japanese Entomological Expedition to North-west Himalaya
- Pindari Glacier expedition
- Indo-Italian Faunistic Expedition
- Chenab River Survey
- Kashmir Stag Survey
- Faunal resources of Renuka Wetland
- Faunal resources of Sukhna Wetland and its catchment area
- Faunal resources of Pong Dam wetland
- Faunal resources of Cold Desert, Ladakh
- Status survey of Endangered Species : Western Tragopan
- Faunal resources of Western Himalaya (Himachal Pradesh)
- Faunal resources of Pin Valley National Park, (Lahaul and Spiti)
- Faunal resources of Simbalbara Wildlife Sanctuary District Sirmour
- Faunal resources of Churdhar Wildlife Sanctuary, District Sirmour
- Faunal resources of Pangi Valley District Chamba

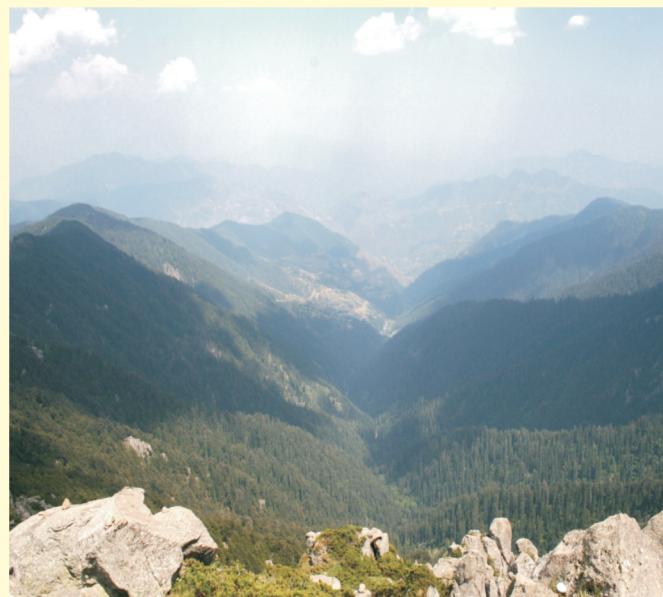
### Areas Surveyed

Surveys undertaken include Wetland ecosystems of Renuka, Pong Dam, Bhakra Nangal Dam, Forested tracts of entire Himachal Pradesh including protected areas of Simbalbara Wildlife Sanctuary, Kalatop Khajjiar Wildlife Sanctuary, Pong Dam Sanctuary, Chail Wildlife Sanctuary, Churdhar Wildlife Sanctuary, Cold desert region in the Pin Valley National Park in Himachal Pradesh and Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary in Ladakh (J and K), and the poorly explored Pangi Valley in Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh.

### Major Scientific Contributions

#### New Discoveries

Scientists of the Centre have described 12 genera and 50 species (termetode earthworms and insects) as new to science in addition to 11 species (earthworms and insects) reported for the first time from India.



### **Available Taxonomic expertise**

Taxonomic expertise on mammals, birds, reptiles, fishes, insects (Lepidoptera, Orthoptera) and earthworms are available presently at the Centre.



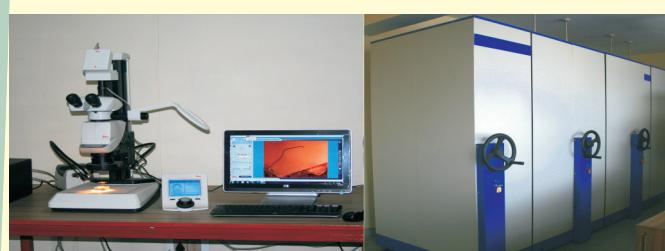
### **National Zoological Collection (N Z C)**

The National Zoological Collection maintained at the Centre contains 24,884 Identified specimens of both Invertebrate and Vertebrate.



### **Modern infrastructure and advanced research facilities**

The Centre is equipped with Compact Insect Storage system for housing insect collections. The major recent addition to the Centre includes Leica M 205A automated stereomicroscope with attached high definition CCD camera and montage software.



### **Publications**

Fourteen books and 350 research papers were published in various national/ international journals by the scientists of the Centre.

- High Altitude Entomology and Wildlife Ecology
- Fauna of India, Megadrile Oligochaeta (Octochaetidae)
- The Leeches of India - A Handbook
- Earthworm Resources and Vermiculture
- Status and Review of Western Tragopan in India
- Fauna of Western Himalaya (Part 2) - Himachal Pradesh
- Status of Kiang *Equus kiang* in eastern Ladakh, India
- Status of Himalayan Marmot *Marmota himalayana* in Eastern Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, India
- Studies on Snow Trout *Schizothorax richardsonii* (Gray) in River Beas and its tributaries (Himachal Pradesh), India
- Butterflies of Himachal Pradesh



### **Library**

The library of the Centre is enriched by 2234 books, and 11 journals / periodicals are subscribed.

### **Museum**

Representative fauna of the western Himalayan states of Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh has been displayed in various showcases, for generating awareness and interest towards biodiversity and conservation among school children and general public.

### **Other Extension activities**

Identification, advisory and library services are rendered to universities, research institutes, and agriculture departments of the state/ central Government and individual research workers engaged in research on various aspects of Zoology. Lectures on various topics related to faunal diversity and biodiversity conservation are delivered on request to the students of colleges and to university teachers.

### **High Altitude Regional Centre**

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For more details visit <http://www.zsi.gov.in>

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