

Gangetic Plains Regional Centre

Zoological Survey of India, Patna, Bihar



Government of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests

The Gangetic plain is the most extensive fluvial plain land of India formed by the deposition of the natural alluvial soil by the river Ganga, and its tributaries for millennia. Together with the plains of the River Indus (Indo-Gangetic plain) it separates the peninsula from the Himalayas. The Gangetic plain is sub divided into the Gangetic divide, upper Gangetic plain, the middle Gangetic plain and the lower Gangetic plain.

In this region the rivers increase in flow towards east and the flood plains are larger than in the upper Gangetic plain. Permanent lakes and *Chauras* (long circular marshes in the chain of temporary lakes formed during rainy season) are common in this area. In the east, the Rajmahal hills, the extreme north east corner of Peninsula touch almost directly in to the river Ganga. The lower Gangetic plain includes remainder of Bihar and parts of Bengal and Jharkhand.

The Gangetic Plains Regional Centre (GPRC) was set up at Patna in March, 1965 under the Third Five Year Plan to survey, ascertain and augment knowledge on the faunal resources of Gangetic Plains. The jurisdiction of the Centre is spread over the states of Bihar, having 38 Districts with one National Park, 11 Wildlife Sanctuaries and one Tiger Reserve and Jharkhand having 24 Districts with one National Park, 10 Wildlife Sanctuaries and one Tiger Reserve.

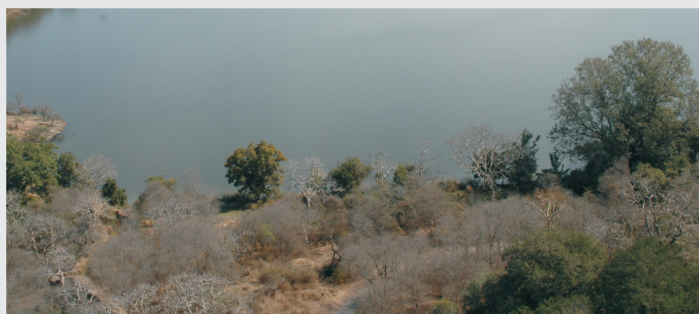
Major Programmes undertaken

- Animal Remains from Chirand, Saran Dist, Bihar.
- Animal Remains from Lumbini in Nepal.
- Ecology of Suraha Lake, Ballia Dist. UP.
- Studies of Lac Insects and Butterflies of South Bihar.
- Plant and Soil Nematodes of Bihar.
- Plant Parasitic mites of Bihar.
- On *Nichollisia kashiene*- a Deep Well Crustacean.
- Osteology of Bats of Bihar.
- Exploration and survey of faunal resources (State survey).
- Exploration and survey of faunal resources : Central Himalaya.
- Studies on Freshwater Molluscs of Munger and Santhal Pragana Dist. of erstwhile Bihar.
- Exploration of freshwater ecosystem: Kabar Lake.
- Fauna of Bihar : Mammalia.
- Fauna of Bihar : Aquatic Insects.
- Fauna of Madhepura and Bhagwanpur Wetland in Madubani District, Bihar.
- Faunal Exploration of Singhbhum and Giridih with special reference to Dalma Sanctuary.
- Faunal Exploration : Bhimbandh Wildlife Sanctuary, Munger, Bihar.
- Aquatic insects of Bihar and Jharkhand.

- Tetrapod Fauna *w.s.r.* to Mammals of Hazaribagh National Park.
- Lepidoptera, aquatic and semi aquatic coleoptera and Hemiptera of Hazaribagh National Park.
- Bats of India.
- Pictorial Handbook (in Hindi) : Rengnewale Jeevon ki Sachitra Pustika.
- Current status of *Susu* (*Platanista gangetica gangetica*) in the entire stretch of River Hooghly, in West Bengal by rapid survey.
- Taxonomic study of Insects of Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary Jharkhand, *w.s.r.* to Lepidoptera.
- Status, Habit and Habitat preference of Mouse deer (*Moschiola meminna* Erxleben, 1777 Artiodactyla) in Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary, Jharkhand.
- Diversity and abundance of Pteromalidae (Hymenoptera: Insecta) in the agro- ecosystems of Patna and nearby districts, Bihar.
- Faunal Diversity of River Subernrekha in Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- Faunal diversity of *Chauras* (wetlands) of North Bihar (IBA Site).

Areas Surveyed

The areas surveyed include the forested tracts covering protected areas of Gangetic Plain namely north Bihar *Chauras* (wetlands), Kavar Lake, Hazaribagh National Park, Bhimbandh Wildlife



Sanctuary, Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary and Valmiki Tiger Reserve as well as rivers and terrestrial areas of Bihar and Jharkhand states.



Major Scientific Contributions

New Discoveries

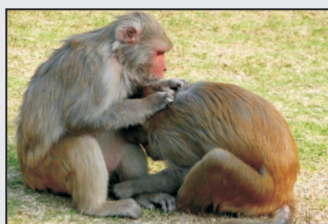
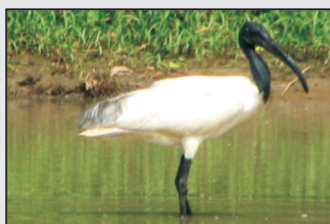
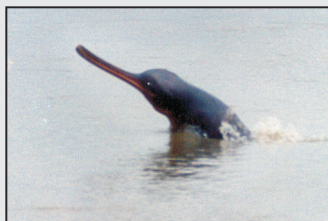
Over 6 species were described as new to the science by the scientists of the Centre.

Available taxonomic expertise

Taxonomic expertise on Mammals (River dolphin), Aquatic macro-invertebrates & Lepidoptera are currently available at the centre.

National Zoological Collection (NZC)

The NZCs maintained at the Centre contain 1,74,703



specimens of various faunal groups of which 49,592 are identified specimens. The collection also includes 6 holotypes and 32 paratypes.



Modern Infrastructure and Advanced Research facilities

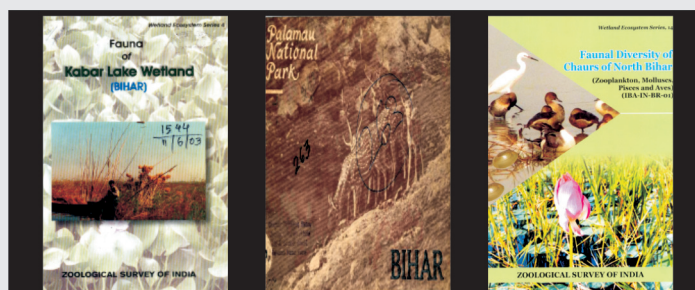
The major recent addition to the Centre is Leica Stereo Zoom Microscope with high resolution camera.



Publications

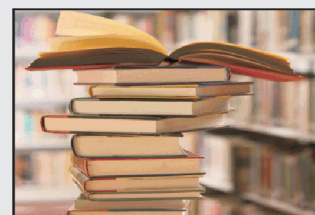
Ten books and 310 research papers were published in various national/ international journals by the scientists of the Centre.

- Monograph on *Nichollsia kashiensis*
- Faunal composition of Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary (Bihar)
- Fauna of Valmiki Nagar Tiger Reserve
- Butterflies from Hazaribagh National Park (South Bihar) (Lepidoptera: Rhopalocera)
- Fauna of Kabar Lake Wetland (Bihar)
- Fauna of Bihar (including Jharkhand) Part-1
- The Odonata of Bihar
- Mantodea of Bihar
- Faunal diversity of Chauras of North Bihar.



Library

The library of the Centre holds 2190 books and 10 journals are subscribed regularly.



Museum

The regional fauna is displayed for the benefit of students and general public.



Other Extension activities

Identification and advisory services are rendered to students and researchers of the local University and institutions. Lectures on various environmental issues / topics related to the faunal diversity and biodiversity in general are delivered on request to the students and institutions.

Gangetic Plains Regional Centre
Zoological Survey of India,
Patna - 800016, Bihar
Ph+Fax: 0612 – 2664049,
E-mail- gprszsipatna@rediffmail.com

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

Published by the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Prani Vigyan Bhawan, M-Block, New Alipore, Kolkata-700 053. Phone : +91-33-2400 6893 / 2498 6820