

FISH AND FISHERIES OF LORA-PISHIN IN PAKISTAN

Abstract: The fish and fisheries of the Lora-Pishin river in Baluchistan (Pakistan) has been briefly discussed, which include the present status and previous reports of different genera and species.

INTRODUCTION

The river Lora-Pishin originates from Toor-Murgha Manda in the Toba-Kakar ranges and the Zarghoon mountains in the Urak valley of Quetta District. It drains the districts of Pishin, Quetta, Qila Abdullah, Kalat and Chaghai in the northwestern Balochistan and after taking a short turn in Afghanistan, it ends in a lake — Hamun-i-Lora — near Noshki. Its length is about 400 km.

The fish and fisheries of this river has not been properly studied. There are some brief papers on the fish fauna only. The present paper is based on the fish collections done by the 1st author from Quetta, Mastung, and Pishin during 1963-65, which was supplemented by the 2nd and 3rd authors in recent years (1996-1998).

The fish fauna is composed of West Asian, High Asian and South Asian forms in addition to three exotic species. The following species have so far been recorded:

ORDER: SALMONIFORMES
FAMILY: SALMONIDAE

1. *Salmo trutta fario* Linnaeus Exotic

ORDER: CYPRINIFORMES
FAMILY: CYPRINIDAE

2. *Carassius auratus* (Linnaeus) Exotic
3. *Crossocheilus diplocheilus* (Heckel) South Asian
4. *Cyprinion microphthalmum* (Day) West Asian
5. *Garra rossica* (Nikolsky) West Asian

FAMILY: NEMACHELLIDAE

6. *Schistura kessleri* (Gunther) West Asian
 7. *Triplophysa brahui* (Zugmayer) High Asian

ORDER: CYPRINODONTIFORMES
FAMILY: POECILLIDAE

8. *Gambusia affinis* (Baird & Girard) Exotic

Of these, *Crossocheilus diplocheilus* was not recorded by Mirza and Naik (*Pakistan J. Sci.*, 17: 83-86, 1965). One specimen of *Carassius auratus* (the goldfish) measuring 31 cm in total length and 495 g in weight was collected from the river Lora-Pishin near Hameed Bridge in Pishin District. The brown trout *Salmo trutta fario* is restricted to the Orak valley and the Spin karez. The other species remain small in size.

One species, *Garra gotyla* (Gray) [recorded as *Garra lamta* by Zugmayer (*Abh. Bayer. Acad. Wiss. (math-phy; Klasse*, 26: 1-35, 1913) from Pishin] has not so far been collected by us. Coad (*Biologia*, 42: 1-18, 1996) recorded *Cyprinion milesi* (Day) from Lora-Pishin also. But this species is not present in our collection.

One specimen of *Schistura lindbergi* (Banarescu & Mirza) was collected from Lake Khushdil Khan from Pishin by Mr. M. Naeem Javed but was lost, so it has not been included in the present list.

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(Received: May 16, 1999)