

Diversity of Fishes Found in the Kajali River, of Lanja Tehsil Ratnagiri District (MS) India

Ghoble S. S.

Assistant Professor in Zoology
Arts Commerce and Science College, Lanja
dr.ghoble@gmail.com

Abstract: *Freshwater fish fauna of Kajali River, Ratnagiri district was studied from 2022 to 2023. A total of 12 species belonging to 07 orders, 08 families, and 09 genera were recorded, of which, 02 species are endemic to the Western Ghats and 01 species endemic to the Kajali River system. Labeokontius, an endemic barb of the Kajali River System was recorded for the first time from the Kajali River, Maharashtra. As per the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, 02 species are assessed as 'Least Concern', 02 species as 'Near Threatened', 03 species as 'Vulnerable', 01 as 'Endangered', and two as 'Data Deficient'. The conservation status of two species has not yet been assessed. Fish fauna of the Kajali River within the study area is threatened as a result of alien species, and several anthropogenic stressors such as pollution from industrial as well as agricultural sources, human settlements, and overfishing. Since, this small study area harbors 02 endemic and one threatened species, their conservation should be given high priority.*

Keywords: Freshwater fish

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