

in the 1960s) in the moat that once surrounded the Fort in Chennai (David D.W. Daniels, *pers. comm.*). *Colisa fasciata* is a species that is much larger in size, less brightly coloured, and hence less popular in the aquarium trade. Raghunathan (1978) has reported *Colisa fasciata* from Chembarampakkam.

Lepidocephalus guntea is common and we caught many during our study. This large-sized Loach is hitherto known only from north of river Krishna (Menon, 1999). Its occurrence in Chembarampakkam may also be the result of introduction by the aquarium industry (as this species is traded in Chennai from time to time) or a more recent invasion due to the inflow of 'Krishna Water'. This could be a good candidate for future studies.

CONCLUSIONS

Wetlands in the neighborhood of Chennai offer a lot of scope for the study of fishes. Since the fisheries and the aquarium industry are both active in the city, the chances of deliberate and accidental introductions of non-native fish species are very high. The impact of introduced fish species on aquatic biodiversity has not yet been fully understood anywhere in India. More detailed study of the fish fauna of Chembarampakkam and other wetlands in and around Chennai will not only add to our knowledge of ecosystem dynamics and the fate of human-impacted biodiversity but also shed light on less understood human impacts such as 'inter-linking' of rivers.

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OCCURRENCE OF ALBINO COMMON PALM CIVET AND NORTHERN PALM SQUIRREL IN SOUTHERN RAJASTHAN

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Partial to total albinism has been reported in many mammals from India such as Nilgai (Ranjitsingh, 1982), Sloth Bear (Bharos, 1988), Rat-tailed Bat (Bhati, 1988), Tiger (Gee, 1954) and Common Mongoose (Tehsin & Chawra, 1994). Review of literature reveals that so far albinism has been not recorded in Common Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*) and Northern Palm Squirrel (*Funambulus pennanti*) in India.

On 13 April 2001, while on a night patrol in Phulwari Wildlife Sanctuary in Udaipur District, at about 2300h, I came across an albino Common Palm Civet near Arjunpura Village. It was a full grown adult, having no trace of black colour in its fur. It crossed the road in front of my jeep and I could have a good look of the animal in the head light of the jeep. Before I could manage my camera to take a photograph, it disappeared in the thickets of *Holarrhena antidysenterica*. Next day, I confirmed my observation with the local Bhils. Many of them had seen this animal before.

Similarly, on 6 September 2001, I saw a milk white sub-adult Northern Palm Squirrel in Udaipur City which did not have dark coloured stripes on its back. Its eyes were bright red in colour and ear pinnae of the animal were also reddish.

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