

**SHORT COMMUNICATION**

**A NOTE ON THE FISHES OF ALLAI KHOAR, NWFP,  
PAKISTAN**

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**Abstract:** The Allai Khoar is a left bank Tributary of the River Indus, which joins the Indus near Besham in NWFP, Pakistan. It is a fast flowing typical hill torrent with rocky bottom and cold temperature. Its fish fauna is not known before. The present note is based on a small collection of fishes received for identification in connection with the Allai Khoar Project. There are only three species viz. *Schizothroax plagiostomus* Heckel *Schistura naseeri* (Ahmad & Mirza) and *Glyptosternum reticulatum* McClland & Griffith.

**Key Words:** Schizothroax sp., Glyptosternum sp, schistura sp. Tributary of River Indus.

**INTRODUCTION**

The Allai Khoar is a left bank tributary of the river Indus. It joins the Indus a little downstream of Besham in NWFP. Its length is nearly 30 km (Butt, 1986). It is a typical fast-flowing stream with rocky bed and cold temperature. The entire stream is suitable for trout culture. There is no previous record of fish fauna of this stream. The present note is based on a collection received in connection with the Allai Khoar Project. The collection was done during winter hence the cold-adapted species were collected only.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The fishes were collected on 18 November 1997. These were fished in 10% formalin solution and then shifted in 70% alcohol. There are only 18 specimens belonging to three species.

### Systematic Account

Class:	Actinopteygii
Subclass:	Teleostei
Order:	Cypriniformes
Family:	Cyprinidae

#### 1. *Schizothorax plagiostomus* Heckel

This is the famous snow-carp of Pakistan, which is widely distributed in the montane and submontane tributaries of the Indus River system. There are ten specimens collected from Natai (one specimen), Biarai (one specimen), Kund (two specimens), Telus (two specimens), Rupkani (one specimen) and Bana Bridge (three specimens). All the specimens are young (up to 19 cm in total length). In other areas this species grows to a large size upto about 60 cm in total length. It is the only species collected from all the localities. It is also found in Afghanistan, Kashmir, India and China (Tibet). In Pakistan, it has been recorded from Northern Area, NWFP, Punjab and northeaster Balochistan. It is commonly known as "Swati" in NWFP and "Gulguli" in the Punjab.

**Family:** Nemacheilidae

#### 2. *Schistura naseeri* (Ahmad & Mirza)

There are only four specimens of this species collected from under the Bana bridge. It has not been collected from other localities. It is a beautiful fish with vertical bars on both sides. It remains small and grows only upto 8 cm. So, it is not taken as food. However, it can be used as an ornamental fish. There are 13-15 bars on body, an intense black bar at the base of candal fin, which may have one or two black spot on the upper end. Candal fin with two bars; dorsal fin with one; first three rays of dorsal fin with intense dark spot at the base; head grayish on dorsal side and cream colour on the central side without markings; pectoral, pelvic and anal fins, of cream colour without marks. Pectoral fin shorter than head length; lateral line reaching upto the level of pelvic fins or ever shorter.

**Order:** Siluriformes

**Family:** Sisoridae

### 3. *Glyptosternum reticulatum* McClelland & Griffith

This is a catfish. It has been collected from Nakai (one specimen), Kund (one specimen) and Bana Bridge (one specimen). It grows upto about 30 cm in Kashmir valley. But the specimens collected from Allai Khoar are small in size (upto 17 cm). It is a delicious fish and is commonly known "Chikar" in Kaghan Valley, "Chikora" in Swat Valley and "Kanzubo" in Northern Areas. It is distributed in upper reaches of hill-streams in Northern Areas, NWFP and Azad Kashmir. It is not found in the Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan. It is also found in Afghanistan, Himachal Pradesh (India), Ladakh and Tibet.

## DISCUSSION

The fish fauna of the Allai Khoar is limited to only three species. The same species are found in Kaghan Valley and Swat Valley. It is possible that some more species could be collected in the lower parts of Allai Khoar during summer. The Indus Mahseer [*Tor macrolepis* (Heckel)] is known to ascend the river Indus upto Besham or a little upstream (Ansari, 1976).

## REFERENCES

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