

MARINE FAUNA OF DIGHA COAST OF WEST BENGAL, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Marine fauna of Digha Coast (87°32' N ; 21°36'30" E) includes 458 species belonging to 296 genera, 167 families, 50 orders, 20 subclasses, 19 classes and 8 phyla. One hundred nineteen major intertidal organisms were identified. Some data regarding topography, climatology and hydrography have been recorded and analysed. The problem of pollution and that of the conservation of marine fauna in this area are highlighted. In the faunal list, samples have been grouped on the basis of habitat and the available common English names have been used against the respective species.

INTRODUCTION

COMPARING the works on the taxonomy and ecology of shore fauna in other parts of India, the work on Digha Coast is quite inadequate. Our knowledge on taxonomy and ecology of shore animals in the Indian Ocean is accounted by the studies of Surgeon Naturalists attached to I.M.S. Ships *Investigator I* (1881-1908) and *Investigator II* (1908-1914 and 1921-1926); Gardiner (1902-1903); Herdman (1903-1906); Hornell (1909, 1916); Joshi (1969) and Parulekar (1966, 1969, 1971 a, b). Along the east coast, studies were carried out by Ganapati and Rao (1954, 1958, 1962) and McIntire (1969). Earlier studies on marine fauna of this area pertain to molluscs (Rao, 1977) and fishes (Manna and Bharati Goswami, 1985), but no earlier endeavour has been reported to evaluate the occurrence of a completely different faunal list in the coastal areas of Digha.

The present paper based on observations undertaken from 1975-1987, gives a list of

fauna of Digha Coast and their distribution habitat and habit have also been recorded.

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MATERIAL AND METHODS

Topography of the study area

Digha is situated at 87°32' N and 21°36' 30" E. It is a famous sea resort of West Bengal and known for straightness of the coast line and flatness and compactness of the beach (Gupta, 1970). The slope is slightly higher in the west than in the east due to the presence of the

sand dunes. The slope is very gentle and varies between 1 in 75 and 1 in 150 (Neogi and Chakraborty, 1967; Neogi, 1970). The width of the beach varies in different spots. From the analysis of sediments it is found that the beach is made up of fine sand grains mixed with variable proportions of silt and clay which makes it very compact (Barua and Bhattacharjee, 1979; Barua *et al.*, 1980). At the Digha proper the beach is less wide than the west. During the low tide, patches of clay are exposed in places at Digha Mohana. At very low spring tide the water of the bay recedes upto 3/4 km from the shore. A mud-flat area has been formed behind the Digha Mohana. Recently an embankment of about 5 km in length of rocky boulders, has been done along the shoreline of Digha Town area to prevent the sea erosion from the pounding action of waves.

There is no river in this region. The River Subarnarekha runs in Orissa and Rasulpur River in the east are quite far from Digha. In the eastern part of Digha Township only two irrigation canals *viz.*, Khadalgobra Canal and Ramnagar Canal are discharging water to the sea. To the point where two canals join with the sea, form the Digha Mohana, a more or less estuarine zone of this area (Fig. 1).

Climatology and Hydrography

Digha has a tropical humid climate. The annual rainfall varies from 1,000 mm to 1,300 mm with maximum rainfall during the monsoon months from June to October. The atmospheric temperature ranges from 16.0°C to 35.5°C with minimum and maximum temperature recorded in January and May to June respectively. The relative humidity varies between 50% in December and 78% in July. The average wind speed in the month from May to June exceeds 30 km/hr. Rest of the

year, particularly in the month of January, February, October to December, the velocity is lowest, 3.5 to 4.5 km/hr. During monsoon, frequent storms are seen when wind blows from southeast to southwest. The cyclonic storms are generated in the Bay of Bengal about 300 to 500 km away from the shoreline.

At Digha, there are usually two high and two low tides during 24 hrs. The spring low tides almost always occur in the morning and in the later afternoon or evening. The amplitude of the tide level on sea side is 2 m. There is much surf throughout the year, especially at times of full moon and new moon.

Area and period of collection

The pelagic and littoral specimens were collected fortnightly from 1975 to 1987 from the following 3 different fish landing areas (Fig. 1):

1. Kiagoria : A border place in the western side in between West Bengal and Orissa State, about 3 km from Digha Town.
2. Digha Ghole : A place in the eastern side about 1 km from Digha Town.
3. Digha Mohana : A place in the eastern side about 4 km from Digha Ghole.

The intertidal specimens were collected with *Sarninet*. The estuarine species were collected with *Panchkathia* and *Behundi* nets.

Benthic collections were made at low tide from the sandy shore and mudflat area as indicated in Fig. 1. Parasitic forms were collected from the buccal cavity of fish. All possible methods were followed to cover

different months and seasons in a year. During sample collections, types of substrate, abundance, habit and habitats of individual species were noted. Sand dwelling meiofaunal forms

Chthamalus stellatus (Poli) were collected from the body of king crabs and rock boulders. The samples were identified upto species level wherever possible. The data on climatology

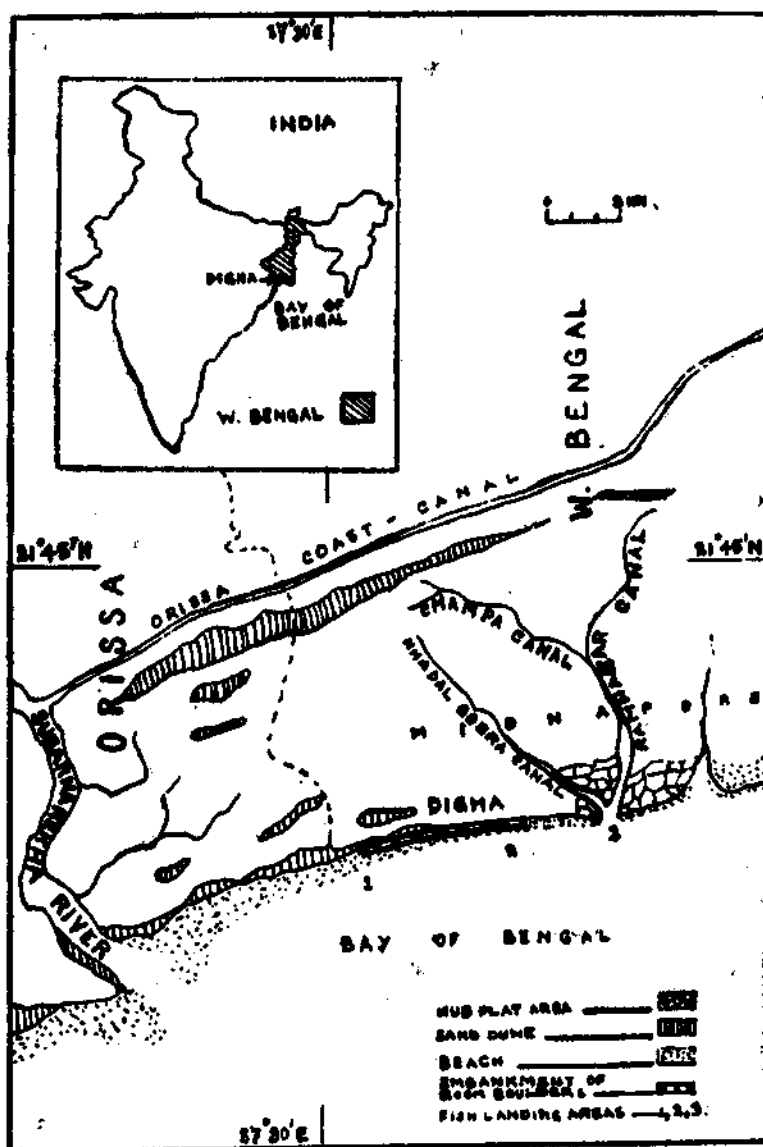


FIG. 1. Map of of Digha coast showing spots of fish-landing area.

have not been considered. Faunal variations with the changes of the season have not been discussed. *Galanus amphitrite* Darwin and

was collected from Alipur meteorological Station (Calcutta). Other data on hydrography was also recorded at the time of invetsigation.

TABLE 1. A checklist of different fauna of Digha Coast along with their general distribution pattern
(P=Pelagic, L=Littoral, PP=Parasitic and — = not known)

Scientific Name	Littoral / Pelagic	Common English Name
I. Phylum : Cnidaria		
Class : Hydrozoa		
Order : Chondrophora		
Family : Porpitidae		
1. <i>Porpita porpita</i> Linnaeus	L	—
Order : Siphonophora		
Family : Physaliidae		
2. <i>Physalia physalis</i> (Linnaeus)	L	Portuguese man-of-war
Family : Diphyidae		
3. <i>Diphyes bojani</i> (Chun)	L	—
Class : Scyphozoa		
Order : Rhizostomeae		
Family : Catostylidae		
4. <i>Acromitus flagellatus</i> Haeckel	L	Jelly fish
5. <i>A. rabanchatu</i> Annandale	L	Do.
Class : Anthozoa		
Subclass : Hexacorallia		
Order : Actiniaria		
Family : Edwardsiidae		
6. <i>Edwardsia tinctoria</i> Annandale	L	Sea anemone
7. <i>Haliathanus limnicola</i> Annandale	L	Do.
Family : Haloclavidae		
8. <i>Metapeachia tropica</i> (Panikkar)	L	Do.
Family : Haliactiidae		
9. <i>Pelocoetes exul</i> Annandale	L	Do.
10. <i>Phytocoetes gangeticus</i> Annandale	L	Do.
11. <i>Phytocoetes chilkaeus</i> Annandale	L	Do.
Family : Halcampactiidae		
12. <i>Phytocoeteopsis ramunni</i> Panikkar	L	Do.
Family : Actiniidae		
13. <i>Anemonia</i> sp.	L	Snake lock anemone
14. <i>Paracondylactis indicus</i> Dave	L	Sea anemone
15. <i>Gyrostoma glaucus</i> Annandale	L	Do.
Family : Metridiidae		
16. <i>Metridium schillerianum</i> (Stoliczka)	L	Plumose anemone
Subclass : Octocorallia		
Order : Pennatulacea		
Family : Veretillidae		
17. <i>Cavernularia elegans</i> Herklots	L	—
18. <i>C. obesa</i> Valenciennes	L	—
19. <i>C. lutkenii</i> Kolliker	L	—

TABLE I. (Contd.)

Scientific Name	Littoral / Pelagic	Common English Name
20. <i>C. orientalis</i> Thompson & Simpson Family : Virgulariidae	L	—
21. <i>Virgularia elegans</i> Gray	L	Walking stick (sea Pen)
II. Phylum : Annelida		
Class : Polychaeta		
Subclass : Errantia		
Family : Polynoidae		
22. <i>Lepidonotus tenuisetosus</i> (Gravier)	L	Scale worm
23. <i>Gattyana deludens</i> Fauvel Family : Amphinomidae	L	Do.
24. <i>Chloeta parva</i> Baird Family : Nereidae	L	Fire worm or Amphinomid
25. <i>Nereis chingrihattensis</i> Fauvel	L	Ragworm or sand worm or Nereid
26. <i>N. chilkaensis</i> Southern	L	Do.
27. <i>Perinereis nuntia</i> (Savigny) var. <i>brevicirris</i> (Grube)	L	Do.
28. <i>P. nuntia</i> (Savigny) var. <i>heterodonta</i> Gravier	L	Do.
29. <i>P. nuntia</i> var. <i>typica</i> Savigny	L	Do.
30. <i>P. cultrifera</i> Grube	L	Do.
31. <i>P. nigro-punctata</i> Horst	L	Do.
32. <i>Dendronereis heteropoda</i> Southern Family : Eunicidae	L	Do.
33. <i>Marphysa gravelyi</i> Southern	L	Eunicid or Rock worm
34. <i>Diopatra neopolitana</i> Delle Chiaje	L	Do.
35. <i>Lumbriconereis heteropoda</i> Morenzeller	L	Do.
36. <i>L. notocirrata</i> Fauvel Family : Nephthyidae	L	Do.
37. <i>Nephtys dibranchis</i> Grube	L	Nephtys
38. <i>N. oligobranchia</i> Southern Family : Spionidae	L	Do.
39. <i>Polydora ciliata</i> Johnston	L	Spiorid worm
III. Phylum : Echiuroidea		
Family : Echiuroidea		
40. <i>Anelassorhynchus branchiorhynchus</i> (Annandale & Kemp)	L	Echiurid
41. <i>A. dendrorhynchus</i> (Annandale & Kemp)	L	Do.
IV. Phylum : Arthropoda		
Class : Crustacea		
Subclass : Cirripedia		
Order : Thoracica		

TABLE I. (Contd.)

Scientific Name	Littoral / Pelagic	Common English Name
Family : Balanidae		
42. <i>Balanus amphitrite</i> Darwin	L	Acorn barnacle
Family : Chthamalidae		
43. <i>Chthamalus stellatus</i> (Poli)	L	Star barnacle
Subclass : Malacostraca		
Order : Stomatopoda		
Family : Squillidae		
44. <i>Squilla nepa</i> Latreille	L	Mantis shrimp
45. <i>Oratosquilla interrupta</i> (Kemp)	L	Do.
46. <i>Harpiosquilla raphidea</i> (Fabricius)	L	Do.
47. <i>Gonadactylus chiracra</i> (Fabricius)	L	Do.
Order : Mysidacea		
Family : Mysidaceae		
48. <i>Rhopalophthalmus egregius</i> Hansen	L	Mysis
49. <i>Castrosaccus muticus</i> Tattersall	L	Do.
50. <i>Macropsis orientalis</i> Tattersall	L	Do.
Order : Amphipoda		
Family : Photidae		
51. <i>Cleantis natalensis</i> Barnard	L	—
Order : Isopoda		
Family : Idoteidae		
52. <i>Cheiriphotis megacheles</i> (Giles)	L	—
Family : Bopyridae		
53. <i>Bopyrus</i> sp.	PP	Parasitic isopod
Family : Cymothoidae		
54. <i>Neroeila serra</i> (Schloedt and Meinri)	L	—
Family : Ligiidae		
55. <i>Ligia exotica</i> Roux	L	Beach wood louse
Order : Decapoda		
Family : Scyllaridae		
56. <i>Thenus orientalis</i> (Lund)	L	Flat head locust lobster
Family : Palinuridae		
57. <i>Panulirus polyphagus</i> (Herbst)	L	Mud spiny lobster
58. <i>P. ornatus</i> (Fabricius)	L	Ornate spiny lobster
Family : Alpheidae		
59. <i>Alpheus euprosyne</i> De Man	L	Snapping shrimp
60. <i>A. malabaricus</i> Fabricius	L	Do.

TABLE I. (Contd.)

Scientific Name	Littoral / Pelagic	Common English Name
Family : Hippolytidae		
61. <i>Exhippolysmata ensirostris</i> (Kemp)	L	Hunter shrimp
62. <i>Saron marmoratus</i> (Olivier)	L	Do.
Family : Palaemonidae		
63. <i>Expalaemon styliferus</i> (H. Milne Edwards)	L	Roshna Prawn
64. <i>Macrobrachium equidens</i> (Dana)	L	Rough river Prawn
65. <i>M. malcolmsoni</i> (H. Milne Edwards)	L	Monsoon river Prawn
66. <i>M. rosenbergii</i> De Man	L	Giant river Prawn
67. <i>M. rude</i> (Heller)	L	Hairy river Prawn
68. <i>M. scabriculum</i> (Heller)	L	Prawn
69. <i>M. mirabile</i> (Kemp)	L	Do.
70. <i>M. villosimanus</i> Tiwari	L	Do.
71. <i>Nematopalaemon tenuipes</i> (Henderson)	L	Spider Prawn
Family : Penaeidae		
72. <i>Atypopenaeus stenodactylus</i> (Stimpson)	L	Periscope shrimp
73. <i>Metapenaeus brevicornis</i> (H. Milne Edwards)	L	Yellow shrimp
74. <i>M. affinis</i> (H. Milne Edwards)	L	Jinga shrimp
75. <i>M. dabsoni</i> (Miers)	L	Kadal shrimp
76. <i>M. lysianassa</i> (De Man)	L	Bird shrimp
77. <i>M. monoceros</i> (Fabricius)	L	Speckled shrimp
78. <i>Parapenaeopsis acclivirostris</i> Alcock	L	Hawknose shrimp
79. <i>P. coromandelica</i> Alcock	L	Coromandel shrimp
80. <i>P. sculptilis</i> (Heller)	L	Rainbow shrimp
81. <i>P. maxillipedo</i> Alcock	L	Torpedo shrimp
82. <i>P. uncta</i> Alcock	L	Uncta shrimp
83. <i>P. longipes</i> Alcock	L	Flamingo shrimp
84. <i>Penaeus indicus</i> H. Milne Edwards	L	Indian white shrimp
85. <i>P. canaliculatus</i> (Olivier)	L	Witch Prawn
86. <i>P. monodon</i> Fabricius	L	Giant tiger Prawn
87. <i>P. semisulcatus</i> De Haan	L	Gran tiger Prawn
88. <i>Trachypenaeus curvirostris</i> (Stimpson)	L	Southern rough shrimp
Family : Sergestidae		
89. <i>Acetes indicus</i> H. Milne Edwards	L	Sergestid shrimp
90. <i>A. erythraeus</i> Nobili	L	Do.
Family : Solenoceridae		
91. <i>Solenocera choprai</i> Nataraj	L	Ridge back shrimp
92. <i>S. crassicornis</i> (H. Milne Edwards)	L	Coastal mud shrimp
Family : Paguridae		
93. <i>Diogenes custos</i> (Fabricius)	L	Hermit crab
94. <i>D. miles</i> (Herbst)	L	Do.
95. <i>D. affinis</i> (Henderson)	L	Do.
96. <i>Dardanus hessii</i> Meirs	L	Do.
97. <i>Clibanarius padavensis</i> De Man	L	Do.

TABLE 1. (Contd.)

Scientific Name	Littoral / Pelagic	Common English Name
Family : Dorippidae		
98. <i>Dorippe faechino</i> De Haan	L	Crab
Family : Matutidae		
99. <i>Matuta victor</i> Fabricius	L	Crab
Family : Portunidae		
100. <i>Charybdis affinis</i> Dana	L	Swimming Crab
101. <i>C. quadrimaculata</i> A. M. Edwards	L	Do.
102. <i>C. elongatus</i> A. M. Edwards	L	Do.
103. <i>C. crucifera</i> A. M. Edwards	L	Do.
104. <i>Portunus sanguinolentus</i> (Herbst)	L	Do.
105. <i>P. pelagicus</i> (Linnaeus)	L	Do.
106. <i>Scylla serrata</i> De Haan	L	Do.
Family : Maiidae		
107. <i>Doclea hybrida</i> (Fabricius)	L	Do.
Family : Ocypodidae		
108. <i>Ocypoda ceratophthalma</i> (Pallas)	L	Ghost Crab
109. <i>Macrophthalmus sulcatus</i> M. Edwards	L	—
110. <i>Uca annulipes</i> Latreille	L	Fiddler Crab
111. <i>U. triangularis</i> M. Edwards	L	Do.
112. <i>U. acuteus</i> Stimpson	L	Do.
113. <i>Dotilla inermis</i> De Man	L	Crab
Class : Insecta		
Subclass : Pterygota		
Order : Odonata		
Family : Hebridae		
114. <i>Hebrus bengalensis</i> Distant	L	Velvet water bug
Family : Nepidae		
115. <i>Ranatra sordidula</i> Dohrn	L	Water scorpion
Family : Corixidae		
116. <i>Euratas formidabilis</i> Distant	L	Water boatman
Class : Merostomata		
Order : Xiphosurida		
Family : Xiphosuridae		
117. <i>Tachypleus gigas</i> (Muller)	L	King Crab
118. <i>Carcinoscorpius rotundicauda</i> (Latreille)	L	Do.
V. Phylum : Mollusca		
Class : Scaphopoda		
Family : Siphonodontalidae		
119. <i>Cadulus clevatus</i> Gould	L	Tusk shell

TABLE 1. (Contd.)

Scientific Name	Littoral / Pelagic	Common English Name
Family : Dentaliidae		
120. <i>Dentalium variable</i> Deshayes	L	Tooth shell
Class : Gastropoda		
Subclass : Prosobranchia		
Order : Archaeogastropoda		
Family : Fissurellidae		
121. <i>Scutus abnormis</i> Nevill	L	—
Family : Trochidae		
122. <i>Umbonium vestiarum</i> (Linnaeus)	L	Umbo shell
Family : Turbinidae		
123. <i>Turbo brunneus</i> (Roeding)	L	Turban shell
Family : Neritidae		
124. <i>Nerita (Amphinerita) lineata</i> Gmelin	L	Nerite shell
125. <i>N. (Theliosyla) chamaeleon</i> Linnaeus	L	Do.
126. <i>N. undata</i> Linnaeus	L	Do.
127. <i>Neritina (Dostina) violacea</i> Gmelin	L	Do.
Order : Mesogastropoda		
Family : Littorinidae		
128. <i>Littorina (Littorina) undulata</i> Gray	L	Periwinkle
129. <i>L. (Littorinopsis) melanostoma</i> Gray	L	Do.
Family : Turritellidae		
130. <i>Turritella attenuata</i> Reeve	L	Turret shell
Family : Potamididae		
131. <i>Cerithidea cingulata</i> (Gmelin)	L	Horn shell
132. <i>C. obtus</i> Lamarck	L	Do.
133. <i>Telescopium telescopium</i> (Linnaeus)	L	Do.
Family : Epitoniidae		
134. <i>Acrilla gracilis</i> A. Adams	L	Wentletrap
Family : Cypraeidae		
135. <i>Monetaria moneta</i> (Linnaeus)	L	Cowrie
136. <i>Ornamentaria annulus annulus</i> (Linnaeus)	L	Do.
Family : Naticidae		
137. <i>Natica chemnitzi</i> Rieluz	L	Moon shell
138. <i>N. lineata</i> Lamarck	L	Do.
139. <i>N. petuveriana</i> (Recluz)	L	Do.
140. <i>N. globosa</i> Chemnitz	L	Do.
141. <i>N. vitellus</i> Linnaeus	L	Do.
142. <i>N. maculosa</i> (Lamarck)	L	Do.
143. <i>Polinicea mammilla</i> (Linnaeus)	L	Do.

TABLE 1. (Contd.)

Scientific Name	Littoral / Pelagic	Common English Name
Family : Bursidae		
144. <i>Bursa spinosa</i> (Lamarck)	L	Frogshell
145. <i>B. rana</i> (Linnaeus)	L	Do.
Family : Tonniidae		
146. <i>Tonna maculata</i> (Lamarck)	L	Tunshell
147. <i>T. dollium</i> (Linnaeus)	L	Do.
148. <i>T. sulcosa</i> (Born)	L	Do.
Order : Neogastropoda		
Family : Muricidae		
149. <i>Murex tribulus</i> (Linnaeus)	L	Rock shell
150. <i>Raphana bulbosa</i> Solender	L	Do.
Family : Thaididae		
151. <i>Thais bufo</i> (Lamarck)	L	Do.
152. <i>Th. corinifera</i> (Lamarck)	L	Do.
153. <i>Cuma disjuncta</i> Annandale	L	Do.
Family : Melongenidae		
154. <i>Semifusus pugilinus</i> (Born)	L	Crown Conch
Family : Nassariidae		
155. <i>Nassarius foreolata</i> (Dunker)	L	Mud-flat snail
156. <i>N. stolatus</i> (Gmelin)	L	Do.
Family : Olividae		
157. <i>Oliva ispuola</i> Linnaeus	L	Olive shell
158. <i>O. vidua</i> (Roding)	L	Do.
159. <i>Olivancillaria gibbosa</i> Born	L	Do.
Family : Turridae		
160. <i>Drillia crenularis</i> Lamarck	L	Turrid shell
161. <i>Sercula javana</i> (Linnaeus)	L	Do.
Family : Terebridae		
162. <i>Terebra</i> sp.	L	Auger shell
Subclass : Opisthobranchia		
Order : Notaspidea		
Family : Pleurobranchidae		
163. <i>Pleurobranchaea</i> sp	L	Nudibranch
Family : Arminidae		
164. <i>Armina (Pleurophyllidia)</i> sp.	L	Do.
Subclass : Pulmonata		
Order : Basommatophora		

TABLE 1. (Contd.)

Scientific Name	Littoral / Pelagic	Common English Name
Family : Ellobiidae		
165. <i>Elobium gangeticum</i> (L. Pfeiffer)	L	—
166. <i>Cassidula nucleus</i> Mortyn	L	—
167. <i>Pythia plicata</i> Ferussac	L	—
Class : Bivalvia		
Subclass : Lamellibranchia		
Order : Taxodonta		
Family : Arcidae		
168. <i>Anadara inequivalvis</i> (Brugiere)	L	Ark shell
169. <i>A. granosa</i> (Linnaeus)	L	Do.
Order : Anisomyaria		
Family : Mytilidae		
170. <i>Perna viridis</i> (Linnaeus)	L	Sea mussle
171. <i>Modiolus tulipa</i> (Lamarck)	L	Horse mussel
172. <i>M. striatulus</i> (Henley)	L	Do.
Family : Anomiidae		
173. <i>Anomia achaeus</i> (Gray)	L	Jingle shell
Family : Ostreidae		
174. <i>Crassostrea mytiloides</i> (Lamarck)	L	Rock oyster
175. <i>C. denticulata</i> Born	L	Do.
176. <i>C. imbricata</i> Lamarck	L	Do.
Order : Heterodonta		
Family : Cardiidae		
177. <i>Cardium coronatum</i> Splengler	L	Cockle
178. <i>C. asiaticum</i> Brugiere	L	Do.
Family : Veneridae		
179. <i>Meretrix meretrix</i> (Linnaeus)	L	Cockle
180. <i>Sunetta scripta</i> (Linnaeus)	L	Do.
Family : Mactridae		
181. <i>Mactra elegans</i> Sowerby	L	Surf clam
182. <i>M. luzenica</i> Deshayes	L	Do.
183. <i>M. mera</i> Reeve	L	Do.
184. <i>M. plicataria</i> Linnaeus	L	Do.
185. <i>M. violacea</i> Gmelin	L	Do.
186. <i>Standella pellucida</i> (Chemnitz)	L	Do.
Family : Donacidae		
187. <i>Donax scortum</i> Linnaeus	L	Wedge clam
188. <i>D. lubricus</i> Hanley	L	Do.
Family : Tellinidae		
189. <i>Tellina angulata</i> Linnaeus	L	Tellin clam
190. <i>T. sinuata</i> Splenger	L	Do.

TABLE 1. (Contd.)

Scientific Name	Littoral / Pelagic	Common English Name
191. <i>T. planissima</i> Anton	L	Do.
192. <i>Strigilla splendida</i> (Anton)	L	Do.
193. <i>Macoma birmanica</i> (Philippi)	L	Do.
Order : Adapedonta		
Family : Solenidae		
194. <i>Siligua albida</i> Dunker	L	Razor Clam
195. <i>S. radiata</i> Linnaeus	L	Do.
196. <i>Pharella javanica</i> (Lamarck)	L	Do.
197. <i>Solen brevis</i> Gray	L	Do.
Family : Glaucomyidae		
198. <i>Glaucomya sculpta</i> (Sowerby)	L	—
Family : Pholadidae		
199. <i>Pholas orientalis</i> Gmelin	L	Piddock or Boring Clam
200. <i>P. candida</i> Linnaeus	L	Do.
201. <i>Martesia vivicola</i> Sowerby	L	Do.
Family : Terediidae		
202. <i>Teredo clava</i> Gmelin	L	Wood boring shipworm
Order : Anomalodesmata		
Family : Pandoridae		
203. <i>Pandora obtusa</i> Leach	L	—
Class : Cephalopoda		
Subclass : Coleoidea		
Order : Sepioidea		
Family : Sepiidae		
204. <i>Sepiella inermis</i> (Ferussac & Orbigny)	L	Spineless cuttlefish
Order : Teuthoidea		
Family : Loliginidae		
205. <i>Loliolus investigatoris</i> Goodrich	L	Squid
Order : Octopoda		
Family : Octopodidae		
206. <i>Octopus globosus</i> (Appelloef)	L	Globe octopus
VI. Phylum : Branchiopoda		
Class : Inarticulata		
Family : Lingulidae		
207. <i>Lingula unatina</i> Lamarck	L	Lampshell
VII. Phylum : Echinodermata		
Class : Holothuroidea		
Subclass : Dendrochirotea		
Order : Dendrochirotida		
Family : Cucumariidae		
208. <i>Thorsonia investigatoris</i> (Koehler & Vaney)	L	Sea Cucumber

TABLE I. (Contd.)

Scientific Name	Littoral / Pelagic	Common English Name
Subclass : Apodacea		
Order : Molpadida		
Family : Molpadidae		
209. <i>Molpadia musculus</i> (Risso)	L	Sea Cucumber
210. <i>Acaudina molpadioides</i> Semper	L	Do.
Class : Echinoidea		
Subclass : Euechinoidea		
Order : Temnopleuroidea		
Family : Temnopleuriidae		
211. <i>Temnopleurus torenmaticus</i> Klein	L	Sea urchin
Class : Stelleroidea		
Subclass : Asteroidea		
Order : Phanerozonia		
Family : Astropectinidae		
212. <i>Astropecten indicus</i> (Doderlein)	L	Starfish
213. <i>A. mauritianus</i> Gray	L	Do.
VIII. Phylum : Chordata		
Class : Chondrichthyes		
Subclass : Selachii		
Order : Lamniformes		
Family : Hemiscylliidae		
214. <i>Chiloscyllium griseum</i> Muller & Henle	P	Grey bamboo shark
215. <i>C. indicum</i> (Gmelin)	P	Slender bamboo shark
Family : Stegostomatidae		
216. <i>Stegostoma fasciatum</i> (Hermann)	P	Zebra shark
Family : Sphyrnidae		
217. <i>Eusphyrna blochii</i> (Cuvier)	P	Wing head shark
218. <i>Sphyrna lewini</i> (Griffith & Smith)	P	Scalloped hammerhead shark
219. <i>S. mokarran</i> (Ruppell)	P	Great hammerhead shark
Family : Carcharhinidae		
220. <i>Carcharhinus dissimulatus</i> (Valenciennes)	P	White cheek shark
221. <i>C. limbatus</i> (Valenciennes)	P	Black tip shark
222. <i>C. hemidon</i> (Valenciennes)	P	Pondicherry shark
223. <i>C. longimanus</i> (Poey)	P	Oceanic white tip shark
224. <i>C. melanopterus</i> (Quoy & Gaimard)	P	Black tip reef shark
225. <i>C. sorrah</i> (Valenciennes)	P	Spot tail shark
226. <i>C. macrotis</i> (Muller & Henle)	P	Hard nose shark
227. <i>Lamiopsis temminckii</i> (Muller & Henle)	P	Broad fin shark
228. <i>Glyphis gangeticus</i> (Muller & Henle)	P	Ganges shark
229. <i>Prionace glauca</i> (Linnaeus)	P	Blue shark
230. <i>Loxodon macrorhinus</i> Muller & Henle	P	Slit eye shark
231. <i>Negaprion acutidens</i> (Ruppell)	P	Sicklefin lemon shark
232. <i>Scoliodon laticaudus</i> Muller & Henle	P	Spade nose shark
233. <i>S. walbeehmi</i> (Bleeker)	P	Walbeehm's sharp nosed shark

TABLE I. (Contd.)

Scientific Name	Littoral / Pelagic	Common English Name
Family : Rhiniodontidae		
234. <i>Rhiniodon typus</i> Smith	P	Whale shark
Order : Rajiformes		
Family : Pristidae		
235. <i>Pristis cuspidatus</i> Latham	P	Pointed saw fish
236. <i>P. microdon</i> Latham	P	Small toothed saw fish
Family : Rhinobatidae		
237. <i>Rhynchobatus djiddensis</i> (Forsskal)	P	White spotted shovel nosed ray
238. <i>Rhinobatus granulatus</i> (Cuvier)	P	Granulated shovel nose shark
Family : Dasyatidae		
239. <i>Dasyatis favus</i> (Annandale)	P	Sting ray
240. <i>D. sephen</i> (Forsskal)	P	Cow-tail ray
241. <i>D. uarnak</i> (Forsskal)	P	Banded whip tail ray
242. <i>D. walga</i> Muller & Henle	P	Scaly sting ray
243. <i>D. zugui</i> Muller & Henle	P	Pale edged sting ray
244. <i>Gymnura poecilura</i> (Shaw)	P	Long tailed butterfly ray
Family : Myliobatidae		
245. <i>Aetobatus flagellum</i> (Euphrasen)	P	Spotted eagle ray
246. <i>A. nichoffi</i> (Schneider)	P	Eagle ray
Order : Torpediniformes		
Family : Torpedinidae		
247. <i>Narcine brunnea</i> Annandale	P	Brown electric ray
248. <i>Narke dipterygia</i> (Bloch & Schneider)	P	Numb fish
Class : Teleostomi		
Subclass : Actinopterygii		
Order : Clupeiformes		
Family : Clupeidae		
249. <i>Tenualosa ilisha</i> (Hamilton Buchanan)	P	Hilsa shad
250. <i>T. toli</i> (Valenciennes)	P	Toli shad
251. <i>Gadusia chapra</i> (Hamilton-Buchanon)	P	Ganges shad
252. <i>Hilsa kelee</i> (Cuvier)	P	Kelee shad
253. <i>Ilisha elongata</i> (Bennet)	P	Elongate ilisha
254. <i>I. melastoma</i> (Schneider)	P	Indian ilisha
255. <i>I. megaloptera</i> (Swainson)	P	Big eye ilisha
256. <i>Oplisthopterus tardoere</i> (Cuvier)	P	Tardoore
257. <i>Pellona ditchela</i> Valenciennes	P	Indian Pellona
258. <i>Sardinella longiceps</i> Valenciennes	P	Indian oilt sardinella
259. <i>S. melanura</i> (Cuvier)	P	Blacktip sardinella
260. <i>S. albella</i> (Valenciennes)	P	White sardinella
261. <i>Spratelloides gracilis</i> (Schlegel)	P	Striped round herring
262. <i>S. delicatulus</i> (Bennet)	P	Delicate round herring
263. <i>Raconda russellana</i> Gray	P	Smooth back herring

TABLE 1. (Contd.)

Scientific Name	Littoral / Pelagic	Common English Name
Family : Dorosomidae		
264. <i>Anodontostoma chacunda</i> (Hamilton-Buchanon)	P	Indian Gizzard shad
265. <i>Nematolosa nasus</i> (Bloch)	P	Long ray bony bream
Family : Engraulidae		
266. <i>Coilia dussumieri</i> Valenciennes	P	Gold spotted grenadier anchovy
267. <i>C. neglecta</i> Whitehead	P	Neglected grandir anchovy
268. <i>C. ramkarati</i> (Hamilton)	P	Frill tailed golden anchovy
269. <i>C. reynaldi</i> (Cuvier & Valenciennes)	P	Anchovy
270. <i>Stolephorus indicus</i> (van Hasselt)	P	Indian anchovy
271. <i>Thryssa mystax</i> (Schneider)	P	Moustached thryssa
272. <i>T. vitrirostris</i> (Gilchrist & Thompson)	P	Orange mouth anchovy
273. <i>T. hamiltonii</i> (Gray)	P	Hamilton's thryssa
274. <i>T. malabarica</i> (Bloch)	P	Malabar thryssa
275. <i>T. dussumieri</i> (Valenciennes)	P	Dussumier's thryssa
276. <i>T. kamalensis</i> (Bleeker)	P	Anchovy
277. <i>T. purava</i> (Hamilton)	P	Anchovy
278. <i>Setipinna phasa</i> (Hamilton)	P	Longfinned Gangetic anchovy
279. <i>S. taty</i> (Cuvier & Valenciennes)	P	Hairfin anchovy
Family : Chirocentridae		
280. <i>Chirocentrus dorab</i> (Forsskal)	P	Wolf herring, Dorab
Family : Harpodontidae		
281. <i>Harpodon nehereus</i> (Hamilton)	P	Bombay duck
Family : Synodontidae		
282. <i>Saurida elongata</i> (Temminck & Schlegel)	P	Lizardfish
283. <i>S. tumbil</i> (Bloch)	P	Greater lizardfish
Order : Cypriniformes		
Family : Cyprinidae		
284. <i>Opisthopterus tardoore</i> (Cuvier)	P	Tardoore
Family : Clariidae		
285. <i>Clarias batrachus</i> (Linnaeus)	P	Freshwater catfish
Family : Plotosidae		
286. <i>Plotosus anguillaris</i> Cuvier	P	Bei catfish, striped catfish
Family : Ariidae		
287. <i>Arius artus</i> Hamilton	P	Threadfin sea catfish
288. <i>A. caelatus</i> Valenciennes	P	Engraved catfish
289. <i>A. maculatus</i> (Thunberg)	P	Spotted catfish
290. <i>A. jella</i> Day	P	Blackfin sea catfish
291. <i>A. sona</i> (Hamilton)	P	Sona sea catfish
292. <i>A. sagor</i> (Hamilton)	P	Sagar catfish
293. <i>Osteogeneiosus militaris</i> (Linnaeus)	P	Soldier catfish
294. <i>Tachysurus nenga</i> (Hamilton)	P	Catfish
295. <i>Batrachocephalus mino</i> (Hamilton)	P	Beardless sea catfish

TABLE 1. (Contd.)

Scientific Name	Littoral/ Pelagic	Common English Name
Family : Siluridae		
296. <i>Ompok bimaculatus</i> (Bloch)	P	Butter catfish
Family : Bagridae		
297. <i>Mystus aor</i> (Hamilton)	P	Aor, Bagrid catfish
298. <i>M. gultio</i> (Hamilton)	P	Long whiskers catfish
299. <i>M. seenghala</i> (Sykes)	P	Long nose catfish
Family : Schilbeidae		
300. <i>Eutropichthyes vacha</i> (Hamilton)	P	Vacha
301. <i>Pangasius pangasius</i> (Hamilton)	P	Pangash
302. <i>Silonia silondia</i> (Hamilton)	P	Silond catfish
303. <i>Clupisoma garua</i> (Hamilton)	P	Garua
Order : Anguilliformes		
Family : Anguillidae		
304. <i>Anguilla bengaliensis bengalensis</i> (Gray)	P	Indian longfin eel
305. <i>A. bicolor bicolor</i> McClelland	P	Short fin eel
Family : Muraenidae		
306. <i>Gymnothorax punctatus</i> (Bloch & Schneider)	P	White spotted moray
307. <i>Thyrsoidea macrurus</i> (Bleeker)	P	Giant moray
Family : Ratabouridae		
308. <i>Moringua raitabura</i> (Hamilton)	P	Thread eel
Family : Muraenesocidae		
309. <i>Muraenesox cinereus</i> (Forsskal)	P	Silver conger eel
310. <i>M. talabon</i> (Cantor)	P	Conger eel
Family : Ophichthyidae		
311. <i>Pisodonophis boro</i> (Hamilton)	P	Snake eel
Order : Beloniformes		
Family : Belonidae		
312. <i>Xenentodon cancila</i> Hamilton	P	Needle fish
313. <i>Strongylura strongylurus</i> van Hasselt	P	Round tail alligator gar
Family : Hemirhamphidae		
314. <i>Hemirhamphus marginatus</i> (Forsskal)	P	Barred half beak
315. <i>H. (Hyporhamphus) limbatus</i> Valenciennes	P	Congaturi half beak
Order : Syngnathiformes		
Family : Syngnathidae		
316. <i>Hippocampus hystrix</i> Kaup	P	Sea horse
317. <i>Dorichthyes cunculus</i> (Hamilton & Buchanan)	P	Crocodile tooth pipefish
318. <i>Trachyrhamphus longirostris</i> Kaup	P	Long snouted pipefish
Order : Mugiliformes		
Family : Sphyraenidae		
319. <i>Sphyrna obtusata</i> Cuvier & Valenciennes	P	Barracuda

TABLE 1. (Contd.)

Scientific Name	Littoral / Pelagic	Common English Name
320. <i>S. forsteri</i> Cuvier	P	Bigeye barracuda
Family : Mugilidae		
321. <i>Liza melinoptera</i> (Valenciennes)	P	Otomebora mullet
322. <i>L. parsla</i> (Hamilton & Buchanan)	P	Gold spot mullet
323. <i>L. subviridis</i> (Valenciennes)	P	Green back mullet
324. <i>L. tade</i> (Forsskal)	P	Tade mullet
325. <i>Mugil cephalus</i> Linnaeus	P	Flat head mullet
326. <i>Valamugil cunnesius</i> (Valenciennes)	P	Longarm mullet
327. <i>Rhinomugil corsula</i> (Hamilton)	P	Grey mullet
Order : Polynemiformes		
Family : Polynemidae		
328. <i>Eleutheronema tetradactylum</i> (Shaw)	P	Fourfinger threadfin
329. <i>Polynemus indicus</i> Shaw	P	Indian threadfin
330. <i>P. sextarius</i> Bloch & Schneider	P	Blackspot threadfin
331. <i>P. heptadactylus</i> (Cuvier)	P	Seven finger threadfin
332. <i>P. paradiseus</i> Linnaeus	P	Paradise threadfin
333. <i>P. sexfilis</i> Valenciennes	P	Golden six thread tasselfish
Order : Chanaiformes		
Family : Channidae		
334. <i>Channa punctatus</i> (Bloch)	P	Green snake head
Order : Perciformes		
Family : Centropomidae		
335. <i>Lates calcarifer</i> (Bloch)	P	Barramundi
Family : Ambassidae		
336. <i>Ambassis nama</i> (Hamilton)	P	Glass fish
337. <i>A. ranga</i> (Hamilton)	P	Indian glassfish
Family : Theraponidae		
338. <i>Therapon jarbua</i> (Forsskal)	P	Jarbua therapon
339. <i>T. theraps</i> Cuvier	P	Large scaled therapon
Family : Sillaginidae		
340. <i>Sillago sihama</i> (Forsskal)	P	Silver sillago
341. <i>Sillaginopsis panijus</i> (Hamilton)	P	Sand whiting
Family : Carangidae		
342. <i>Alectis indicus</i> (Ruppell)	P	Indian threadfish
343. <i>Alepes vari</i> (Cuvier)	P	Herring scad
344. <i>Megalaspis cordyla</i> (Linnaeus)	P	Horse mackerel
345. <i>Atropus atropos</i> (Schneider)	P	Cleft trevally
346. <i>Carangoides ferdau</i> (Forsskal)	P	Blue trevally
347. <i>C. caeruleopinnatus</i> (Ruppell)	P	Coastal trevally
348. <i>C. hedlandensis</i> (Whitley)	P	Bimnose trevally
349. <i>C. praeustus</i> (Bennett)	P	Brown back trevally
350. <i>C. malabaricus</i> (Bloch & Schneider)	P	Malabar trevally

TABLE 1. (Contd.)

Scientific Name	Littoral / Pelagic	Common English Name
351. <i>Naucrates ductor</i> (Linnaeus)	P	Pilotfish
352. <i>Caranx sexfasciatus</i> Quoy & Gaimard	P	Big-eye trevally
Family : Lactariidae		
353. <i>Lactarius lactarius</i> (Schneider)	P	White-fish
Family : Apogonidae		
354. <i>Apogon tickelli</i> (Day)	P	Cardinal fish
355. <i>A. lateralis</i> (Valenciennes)	P	Cardinal fish
Family : Menidae		
356. <i>Mene maculate</i> (Bloch & Schneider)	P	Moon-fish
Family : Lutjanidae		
357. <i>Aprion virescens</i> Valenciennes	P	Green jobfish
358. <i>Lutjanus argentimaculatus</i> (Forsskal)	P	Mangrove red napper
359. <i>L. johnii</i> (Bloch)	P	Moses Perch
360. <i>L. holocentrum</i> (Bleeker)	P	Snapper
361. <i>L. fulviflammus</i> (Forsskal)	P	Black spot snapper
Family : Leiognathidae		
362. <i>Gazza minuta</i> (Bloch)	P	Tooth Pony
363. <i>Leiognathus bindus</i> (Valenciennes)	P	Orangefin Ponyfish
364. <i>L. brevirostris</i> (Valenciennes)	P	Shortnose Ponyfish
365. <i>L. equulus</i> (Forsskal)	P	Common Ponyfish
366. <i>L. fasciatus</i> (Lacepede)	P	Striped Ponyfish
367. <i>L. dussumieri</i> (Valenciennes)	P	Dussumier's Ponyfish
368. <i>Secutor insidiator</i> (Bloch)	P	Pugnose Ponyfish
369. <i>S. ruconius</i> (Hamilton-Buch non)	P	Deep pugnose Ponyfish
Family : Gerridae		
370. <i>Gerres oyena</i> (Forsskal)	P	Silver bidy
371. <i>G. filamentosus</i> (Cuvier)	P	Whipfin silver bidy
372. <i>Pentaprion longimanus</i> (Cantor)	P	Longfin silver bidy
Family : Pomadasysidae		
373. <i>Pomadasys hasta</i> (Bloch)	P	Grunt
374. <i>P. maculatus</i> (Bloch)	P	Spotted grunter
Family : Sciaenidae		
375. <i>Macropsiposa cuja</i> (Hamilton)	P	Croaker
376. <i>Dendrophysa russelli</i> (Cuvier)	P	Goatee croaker
377. <i>Johnieops sina</i> (Cuvier)	P	Sin croaker
378. <i>J. vogleri</i> (Bleeker)	P	Sharp tooth hammer croaker
379. <i>Johnius belengerii</i> (Cuvier)	P	Balanger's croaker
380. <i>J. macropterus</i> (Bleeker)	P	Large fin croaker
381. <i>Otolithes ruber</i> (Schneider)	P	Tiger tooth croaker
382. <i>Otolithoides blaurtus</i> (Cantor)	P	Bronze croaker
383. <i>Pseudosciaena colbor</i> (Hamilton)	P	Ganges Jewfish

TABLE 1. (Contd.)

Scientific Name	Littoral/ Pelagic	Common English Name
384. <i>P. soldado</i> (Lacepede)	P	Jewfish
385. <i>Protonibea diacanthus</i> (Lacepede)	P	Spotted croaker
386. <i>Pennahia macrophthalmus</i> (Bleeker)	P	Bigeye-croaker
387. <i>Otolithus maculatus</i> (Kuhl & van Hasselt)	P	
388. <i>Panna microdon</i> (Bleeker)	P	Panna croaker
389. <i>Pama pama</i> (Hamilton)	P	Calcutta Jewfish
Family : Platacidae		
390. <i>Platax tetra</i> (Forsskal)	P	Long finned batfish
Family : Drepanidae		
391. <i>Drepane punctata</i> (Linnaeus)	P	Spotted sicklefish
392. <i>D. longimana</i> (Bloch and Schneider)	P	Batfish
Family : Scatophagidae		
393. <i>Scatophagus argus</i> (Linnaeus)	P	Spotted butterfish
Family : Trichiuridae		
394. <i>Eupleurogrammus glossodon</i> (Bleeker)	P	Long tooth hairtail
395. <i>E. muticus</i> (Gray)	P	Small head hairtail
396. <i>Lepturacanthus pantulul</i> Gupta	P	Coromandel hairtail
397. <i>L. savala</i> (Cuvier)	P	Savala hairtail
398. <i>Trichiurus lepturus</i> Linnaeus	P	Large head hairtail
399. <i>T. gangeticus</i> Gupta	P	Ganges hairtail
Family : Toxotidae		
400. <i>Toxotes chatareus</i> (Hamilton-Buchanan)	P	Spotted archer fish
401. <i>T. jaculator</i> (Pallas)	P	Banda archer fish
Family : Sparidae		
402. <i>Acanthopagrus berda</i> (Forsskal)	P	Picnic seabream
403. <i>A. latus</i> (Houttuyn)	P	Yellowfin seabream
404. <i>Rhabdosargus sarba</i> (Forsskal)	P	Goldlined seabream
405. <i>Sparidentex hasta</i> (Valenciennes)	P	Sobaity seabream
Family : Scombridae		
406. <i>Rastrelliger kanagurta</i> (Cuvier)	P	Indian mackerel
407. <i>Auxis thazard</i> (Lacepede)	P	Frigate tuna
Family : Scomberomoridae		
408. <i>Scomberomorus commerson</i> (Lacepede)	P	Barred Spanish mackerel
409. <i>S. guttatus guttatus</i> (Bloch & Schneider)	P	Spotted Spanish mackerel
410. <i>Scomberoides lysan</i> (Forsskal)	P	Double spotted Queen fish
411. <i>S. tol</i> (Cuvier)	P	Needle scaled Queen fish
Family : Stromateidae		
412. <i>Pampus argenteus</i> (Euphrasen)	P	Silver Pomfret
413. <i>P. chinensis</i> (Euphrasen)	P	Chinese Pomfret
Family : Formionidae		
414. <i>Parastromateus niger</i> (Bleeker)	P	Black Pomfret

TABLE 1. (Contd.)

Scientific Name	Littoral / Pelagic	Common English Name
Family : Kurtidae		
415. <i>Kurtus indicus</i> Bloch	P	Indian hump head
Family : Triacanthidae		
416. <i>Triacanthus brevirostris</i> Schlegel	P	Spikefish, Tripodfish
Family : Gobiidae		
417. <i>Glossogobius giurfs</i> (Hamilton)	P	Bar eyed goby
418. <i>Bathygobius fuscus</i> (Ruppell)	P	Brown goby
419. <i>Pseudocryptes lanceolatus</i> (Bloch & Schneider)	P	Pointed tailed goby
420. <i>Apocryptes bato</i> (Hamilton)	P	Goby
421. <i>Scartelaos histophorus</i> (Valenciennes)	P	Do.
422. <i>Taenoides cirratus</i> (Blyth)	P	Do.
423. <i>Boleophthalmus boddarti</i> (Pallas)	P	Do.
424. <i>Odontamblyopus runcundus</i> (Hamilton)	P	Do.
Family : Periophthalmidae		
425. <i>Periophthalmus pearsi</i> Eggret	P	Mudskipper
Family : Trypauchenidae		
426. <i>Trypauchen vagina</i> (Bloch & Schneider)	P	Red goby
Family : Platycephalidae		
427. <i>Platycephalus indicus</i> Schlegel	P	Indian flat head
428. <i>P. insidiator</i> (Forsskal)	P	Rough flat head
429. <i>Suggrundus rodricensis</i> (Cuvier & Valenciennes)	P	Spiny flat head
430. <i>Rogadius asper</i> (Cuvier & Valenciennes)	P	Thorny flat head
Order : Thunniformes		
Family : Thunnidae		
431. <i>Euthynnus affinis affinis</i> (Cantor)	P	Kawakawa
Order : Pleuronectiformes		
Family : Psettodidae		
432. <i>Psettodes erumei</i> (Schneider)	P	Indian spiny turbot
Family : Bothidae		
433. <i>Bothus ovalis</i> (Regan)	P	Oval flounder
434. <i>Pseudorhombus arsius</i> (Hamilton)	P	Large tooth flounder
435. <i>P. elevatus</i> Ogilby	P	Deep flounder
436. <i>P. javanicus</i> (Bleeker)	P	Javan flounder
437. <i>P. triocellatus</i> (Schneider)	P	Three spotted flounder
Family : Soleidae		
438. <i>Euryglossa orientalis</i> (Bloch & Schneider)	P	Oriental sole
439. <i>Synaptura commersoniana</i> (Lacepede)	P	Commerson's sole
440. <i>Zebrias quagga</i> Kaup	P	Fringefin zebra sole
Family : Cynoglossidae		
441. <i>Cynoglossus bilineatus</i> (Lacepede)	P	Fourlined tongue sole

TABLE 1. (Contd.)

Scientific Name	Littoral/ Pelagic	Common English Name
442. <i>C. arel</i> (Schneider)	P	Large scale tongue sole
443. <i>C. puncticeps</i> (Richardson)	P	Speckled tongue sole
444. <i>C. lingua</i> (Hamilton & Buchanan)	P	Long tongue sole
445. <i>C. cynoglossus</i> (Hamilton & Buchanan)	P	Bengal tongue sole
446. <i>C. semifasciatus</i> Day	P	Tongue sole
447. <i>Paraplagusia bilineata</i> (Bloch)	P	Two-lined tongue sole
Order : Echeniformes		
Family : Echenidae		
448. <i>Echenets naucrates</i> Linnaeus	P	Live shark sucker
449. <i>Remora remora</i> (Linnaeus)	P	Common sucker
Order : Tetradontiformes		
Family : Tetradontidae		
450. <i>Sphaeroides oblongus</i> (Bloch)	P	Oblong blow fish
451. <i>Lagocephalus lunaris</i> (Bloch & Schneider)	P	Green rough backed blow fish
Order : Gadiformes		
Family : Bregmacerotidae		
452. <i>Bregmaceros mcClellandi</i> (Thompson)	P	Indian cod
Class : Reptilia		
Subclass : Anapsida		
Order : Chelonia		
Family : Cheloniidae		
453. <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> (Eschscholtz)	P	Pacific ridley turtle
Subclass : Lepidosauria		
Order : Squamata		
Family : Hydrophiidae		
454. <i>Enhydrina schistosa</i> (Daudin)	P	Hook nosed sea snake
455. <i>Hydrophis caeruleus</i> (Shaw)	P	Sea snake
456. <i>Hydrophis mamillaris</i> Daudin	P	Do.
457. <i>Hydrophis spiralis</i> (Shaw)	P	Do.
Class : Mammalia		
Subclass : Theria		
Order : Sirenia		
Family : Dugongidae		
458. <i>Dugong dugon</i> (Muller)	P	Sea cow

DISCUSSION

From the topography it is clear that Digha Beach does not represent a typical sandy beach, it is a mixed type consisting of fine grains of sand and mud. For this the faunal representation indicates both forms of sandy and muddy shore. Recently sessile

barnacles, sea anemones a few polychaetes and rock oysters are making their habitats on rocky boulders of embankment.

The faunal list (Table 1) of Digha represents 458 species belonging to 8 Phyla, 19 Classes, 20 Subclasses, 50 Orders, 167 Families, 296 Genera, 4 Subspecies and 3 varieties. One

hundred and nineteen major animal types were identified from the sandy shore, mud-flat and estuarine zone and rocky boulders embankment area. Of them, the sandy shore having 108 types and 421 species, is the richest. The mud-flat and estuarine zone had 91 types and 351 species. The rocky boulders are having 5 types of 11 species represents the least inhabited of the three.

In the faunal list some peculiar features on animal distribution have been observed. *Emerita asiatica* and *Albunea symnista*, both burrowing decapod species that are characteristic in the tropical sandy beach, have not been recorded from Digha. Probably for the compactness of the substratum but huge tubicolous polychaete (*Perinereis cultrifera*, *Perinereis nuntia* var. *heterodonta*) have been observed due to stable substratum. The faunal list of Digha somewhat differs with the faunal list of sandy beach of Visakhapatnam Coast recorded by Ganapathy and Rao (1962), because of more compactness of Digha Beach.

Chloia parva, King crabs, *Littorina melanostoma*, *Cerithidea cingulata*, *Cerithidea obtusa*, *Telescopium telescopium*, *Thais bufo*, *Thais carinifera*, *Cuma disjuncta*, *Pythia plicata*, *Anadara inequivalvis*, *Anadara granosa*, *Modiolus* sp., *Meretrix meretrix*, *Octopus globosus*, *Anguilla* sp., *Gymnothorax punctatus*, *Thyrsoidea macrurus*, *Moringua raitabura*, *Muraenesox* sp., *Pisodonophis boro*, *Glossogobius giuris*, *Bathygobius fuscus*, *Pseudocryptes lanceolatus*, *Apocryptes bato*, *Scartelaos histophorus*, *Taenoides cirratus*, *Boleophthalmus boddarti*, *Odontamblyopus rubicundus*, *Periophthalmus pearsi*, *Trypauchen vagina* were collected throughout the year from the

estuarine zone of Digha Mohana, Mud-flat and muddy bed area of Khadalgebra and Ramanagar Canals. The molluscan species correlate with the observation of Rao (1977) and Purkait and Manna (1988).

The family Ocypodidae which contains *Ocypode ceratophthalma* and *Dotilla inermis*, are found in enormous numbers in sandy beach and mud-flat of Digha. *Ocypode ceratophthalma* which is more numerous and larger than *Dotilla*, live on separated burrows, mostly above the high tide on the upper beach. The burrows are 'J' shaped and about 30 cm to 40 cm deep. The excavated sand is carried to the surface as small balls which are deposited near to the entrance. They are diurnal and come out at low tide for prey and courtship. If disturbed outside, they take the shelter very quickly to their own burrows or occupy nearby vacant holes.

During the observation period it was once witnessed a single dead dugong on the shore.

Octopus globosus is nocturnal species, collected from the net of canals. Their catch increase in sufficient numbers at the onset of monsoon during the months of June to August.

This list reveals a richness of faunal diversity and it is assumed that marine environs of Digha Coast area are free from hazards of industrial and environmental pollutions. But recently Digha Beach is subjected to faecal pollution and also oil pollution during fish collecting season especially from October to February. It, therefore, urges to the Government to monitor the environment for proper conservation of marine fauna of Digha.

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