

Short Communication

First record of a Cyprinid fish *Bangana dero* (Hamilton, 1822) (Cypriniformes: Cyprinidae) from, Maharashtra, India

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Abstract

The species *Bangana dero* from Krishna river has been reported for the first time from Maharashtra. Four species of genus *Bangana* reported from India. *B. dero* known to occur in northern India. The present study reports additional distributional records from Maharashtra State.

Keywords: *Bangana*, Krishna River, Maharashtra

Introduction

The Cyprinid genus *Bangana* Hamilton are widely distributed in South, Southeast and East Asia including Pakistan, India, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and South China (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991; Kullander *et al.*, 1999; Kottelat, 2001). Up to now, 24 species of *Bangana* have been reported (Zhang and Chen, 2006; Liu and Zhou, 2009), of which 4 species namely, *B. almorae*, *B. ariza*, *B. dero* and *B. diplostoma* reported from India. Hamilton (1822) described *Cyprinus (Bangana) dero* from Brahmaputra River, India. It has been treated as *Labeo dero* (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991; Jayaram and Dhas, 2000; Jayaram, 2010). *Bangana* was treated as a valid genus by Kottelat (1984) and Kullander *et al.*, (1999) recognized the species as *Bangana dero*.



Figure 1. *Bangana dero* (Hamilton, 1822) from Krishna river, Bhilwadi, District Sangli, Maharashtra (ZSI, WRC, P/4065).

While working on the fish specimens collected from Krishna River, Bhilwadi, district Sangli of Maharashtra, the authors came across interesting specimen of *Bangana* identified as *Bangana dero* (Hamilton, 1822) belonging to family Cyprinidae (Figure 1). For identification of fish

species, Jayaram and Dhas (2000), Talwar and Jhingran (1991), Liu and Zhou (2009), Zhang and Chen (2006) have been consulted. Current taxonomic status of fish adapted from Eschmeyer (2016). The IUCN status of fish is also provided as per Vishwanath (2010).

Systematic Account

Phylum CHORDATA
Class ACTINOPTERYGII
Order CYPRINIFORMES
Family CYPRINIDAE

Bangana dero (Hamilton, 1822)

1822. *Cyprinus dero* Hamilton, *Fishes of Ganges*: 277, 385, pl.22, Figure 78 (Type-locality: Brahmaputra river).
Material examined: 1 ex., Krishna River, Bhilwadi, District Sangli, Maharashtra (16.9908⁰N & 74.4636⁰E), Collector: S.S. Jadhav, 18.xii.2013, Reg. No. ZSI, WRC, P/4065.

Diagnostic characters: Body elongate and compressed. Dorsal profile more arched than ventral profile with a distinct hump immediately behind head. Snout overhanging mouth, devoid of any lateral lobe but with a distinct groove across it and covered with horny tubercles. A deep groove across the chin; postlabial groove interrupted. Mouth inferior, narrow, lower lip with a band of papillae along anterior edge. Eyes small not visible from underside of head. Barbels a short maxillary pair, hidden in labial groove.

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Dorsal fin with 3 simple and 10 branched rays; all rays slender, origin above 10th lateral line scale; distal edge straight or slightly concave. Pectoral fin slightly falcate, reaching about 2/3 of distance to pelvic-fin origin; with 1 simple and 17 branched rays; all rays slender. Pelvic fin narrow, slightly falcate, reaching to anus and about 4/5 of distance to anal-fin origin; with 1 simple and 7 branched rays; all rays slender; origin under basis of first branched dorsal-fin rays and 12-13th lateral line scale; two axillary scales present. Anal fin narrow, reaching about mid-length of caudal peduncle; with 3 simple and 5 branched rays; all rays slender, origin under 25th lateral line scale; distal edge straight or slightly concave. Caudal fin with 10 + 9 principal rays, 9 + 8 branched rays. Caudal peduncle 1.5-2.0 times longer than deep.

Body entirely scaled, including belly. 17 predorsal scales. Scales along lateral line 41. 6½-7½ scales between lateral line and pelvic fin origin. 6½-7½ scales between lateral line and anal fin origin. 8½ scales between lateral line and dorsal fin origin.

Colour: Body bluish or brownish black on back, bluish-silvery on flanks and belly. Fins with reddish tinge. When preserved, dorsal fin becomes dark, flanks and belly becomes dark brown.

Habitat: Bhilwadi, village (16.9908°N & 74.4636°E) is a small town in Palus taluka of Sangli district, located on the bank of Krishna River. The fish lives mostly in torrential, deep standing waters with sandy and muddy substratum associated with other species viz. *Labeo porcellus*, *Labeo potail*, *Schismatorhynchus nukta*, *Systomus sarana*

subnasutus. There are no major threats observed in the vicinity of collection locality. However, potential threats include sand mining and agricultural run-off entering into the river.

Distribution: India: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Punjab, Sikkim, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, all along the Himalaya including Kashmir, Chota-Nagpur, Satpuda-Vindhya ranges, Deccan and South as far as the Cauvery.

Elsewhere: Bangladesh, China, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan. Also reported from Iran, Afghanistan and Bhutan.

Status: As per IUCN (Vishwanath, 2010), it is Least Concern (LC)

Summary

Bangana dero (Hamilton, 1822) is widely distributed throughout the Himalayan foothills in India, Nepal and China. It was also recorded from Cauvery and Krishna Rivers (Jayaram and Dhas, 2000). The occurrence of this species from Krishna River, Maharashtra has been recorded for the first time. It has been introduced in Peninsular India and Sri Lanka as an important food and game fish. Its flesh is well flavoured and highly valued as food.

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