A CHECKLIST OF FISH AND CRUSTACEANS OF THE SOUTH-WEST COAST OF BANGLADESH

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Abstract: The study was based on the preparation of a list of fish and crustacean species available in the South-west coastal areas of Bangladesh and aimed at establishing a museum at the Fisheries and Marine Resource Technology (FMRT) Discipline. Such a museum in the Discipline was thought to be useful for the teachers, students and researchers in the areas of fisheries management and fish culture. The collections were made from all over the places of rural and urban markets of Khulna, Bagerhat and Satkhira; from fish landing ghats and from fishermen boats of Mongla, Dacope and Khulna. A list of 137 species of fish and belonging to 16 Orders, 69 Families and 106 Genera was produced. The crustaceans were 9 Species belonging to the single Order, Decapoda consisting of 4 Families and 6 Genera. The specimens were identified using standard keys, preserved in 10% formalin, labeled and shelved in the museum of FMRT Discipline. The list, however, was not an exhaustive one. Because the collection could not be made from the offshore areas, it was not possible to include many of the rare and unconventional species of fish and crustaceans from the offshore waters. The museum established, it is hoped, will play a due role in fisheries teaching and research.

Key words: Fish, Crustacean, Taxonomy, Sundarbans, Bangladesh

Introduction

The South–West region of the country has come out as an important fisheries area in the country. The brackish water shrimp cultivation in the recent years has experienced a rapid increase in the coastal bheries of the area. A total of about 1, 30, 000 ha coastal land is being used for shrimp cultivation. The world famous mangrove forest – the Sundarbans is located in this area. The Sundarbans supports a huge breeding and nursery ground of a large group of offshore and deep-sea fin fishes and crustaceans. A huge scale of resource depletion takes place every year in the estuarine waters in the area in the form of larvae and juveniles of the fin fishes and crustaceans during the collection of Penaeus monodon larvae. Chaudhury (1990) reported that there is a loss of up to 73% other shrimp larvae and 24% fish larvae for collection of 3% bagda fry through the present system of shrimp seed collection from the Sundarbans mangrove area.

The information on the diversity of fish and crustaceans in the coastal waters of the country is scarce. Reports on the species availability in the Sundarban waters are available from a few studies so far made (Acharya and Kamal, 1994; Seidensticker and Hai, 1978; and Anon, 1994 and Bernacsek, 2000). Biodiversity in the form of both species diversity and genetic diversity is a broad reflection of the geographical/ecological diversity of an area. It is said that heterogeneity in the environment is reflected in the variable form of organisms. Thus the more heterogeneous the

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ecological conditions are, more variable the populations are (Lewontin, 1957 and Dobzhansky et al., 1977) The fish and crustacean species available in the south-west coastal areas are diverse ones and this is clearly evident from the unique heterogeneity of the area and the mangrove Sundarbans is definitely a prime determinant. Bangladesh is a land of waters. It abounds with a large variety of species. Rahman (1989) reported 260 species of fish from Bangladesh waters. His list does not include species from the estuarine and offshore waters excepting a few that often enter in the freshwater rivers. He suggested the need for careful collection and systematic study of the species available in the estuarine waters. Shah (2003) stressed the necessity for research on the fishery resources identification of the Sundarbans. The Fisheries and Marine Resource Technology Discipline of University has linkages with the out field activities targeted for management and conservation of the resources. It does not have an informative museum of species of fish and crustacean available in this region. For sustainable management and conservation of resources, a knowledge on the diversity of the fish and crustaceans available in the waters is utmost important.

The present study was aimed at establishing a museum of the species of fish and shellfish available in the region. Collection of specimens was made from all over the places of rural and urban markets of Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat; from fish landing ghats and from fishermen boats from Mongla, Dacope and Khulna. The specimens were identified using standard identification keys, labeled, preserved in 10% formalin and shelved in the museum of the Fisheries and Marine Resource Technology Discipline. A total of 137 species of fin fish 9 species of crustaceans belonging to 17 Orders, 73 Families and 112 Genera were identified from the collection. The museum established, it is expected, would serve the important purpose of education and research in fisheries, in the areas of the country.

Materials and Methods

The study was carried out over a period of six months from August, 2002 to January, 2003. The collection was made from the coastal districts of Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat. Several visits were made to the fish markets and fish landing centers of Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat for collection of specimen. The specimen were carefully packed in carrier box and brought to the laboratory for identification and preservation. They were identified with the help of keys as provided by Rahman (1989), Munro (2000) and FishBase (2007). They were kept in glass jars, with 10% formalin, properly labeled with number and shelved in the museum. To prevent the specimen from getting bended in the jar, the bigger specimens were rested on a strip of glass and fixed with a thread. Also for better preservation glycerin was added with the formalin to neutralize it.

Results

The study on the collection and identification resulted with a list of 137 species of fin fish belonging to 16 Orders, 71 Families and 106 Genera. The crustaceans were of 9 species under a single Order, 4 Families, and 6 Genera. Classification was done after FishBase (2007), Munro (2000) and Rahman (1989). The following is the list of the specimens. The species have been preserved with mainly single specimen and conserved in the museum of FMRT Discipline.
Fish

Class: Elasmobranchii
Subclass: Selachii
Order: Rajiformes
Family: Rhinobatidae
  Genus: Rhinobatos
    Species: Rhinobatos granulatus (Cuvier, 1829)
    Local name: Pitambori
  Genus: Rhynchobatus
    Species: Rhynchobatus djiddensis (Forsskal, 1775)
    Local name: Dagi pitambori

Family: Trygonidae
  Genus: Gymnura
    Species: Gymnura poecilura (Shaw, 1804)
    Local name: Projapati ray
  Genus: Dasyatis
    Species: Dasyatis zugei (Muller and Henle, 1841)
    Local name: Sapla pata

Order: Lamniformes
Family: Carcharhinidae
  Genus: Scoliodon
    Species: Scoliodon laticaudus (Muller and Henle, 1841)
    Local name: Hangor
    Species: Rhizoprionodon acutus (Rüppell, 1837)
    Local name: Hangor

Order: Torpediniformes
Family: Torpedinidae
  Genus: Narcine
    Species: Narcine brunnea (Annandale, 1909)
    English name: Brown electric ray

Order: batrachoidiformes
Family – Batrachoididae
  Genus: Allenbatrachus
    Species: Allenbatrachus grunniens
    English name: grunting toadfish
    Local name: Gongonia

Class: Teleostomi
Subclass: Actinopterygii
Order: Pleuronectiformes
Family: Cynoglossidae
  Genus: Paraplagusia
    Species: Paraplagusia bilineata (Bloch, 1787)
    English Name: Doublelined tonguesole
    Local name- kukur jeeb

Order: Sympbranchiformes
Family: Symbranchidae
  Genus: Monopterus
    Species: Monopterus cuchia (Hamilton, 1822)
    English Name: Cuchia
    Local name: Kucha

Order: Anguilliformes
Family: Muraenidae
  Genus: Gymnothorax
    Species: Gymnothorax thyroideus (Richardson, 1845)
    English Name: Greyface Moray

Family: Moringuidae
  Genus: Moringua
    Species: Moringua raitaboura (Hamilton, 1822)
    English Name: Purple Spaghetti Eel
    Local name- Rata boura
Order: Tetradontiformes
   Family: Legocephalidae
   Genus: Lagocephalus
       Species: Lagocephalus lunaris (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)
       English Name: Green Rough-backed Puffer
   Family: Tetraodontidae
   Genus: Tetraodon
       Species: Tetraodon cutcutia (Hamilton, 1822)
       English Name: Ocellated Pufferfish
       Local name: Tepa

Order: Beloniformes
   Family: Belonidae
   Genus: Strongylura
       Species: Strongylura Strongylura (van Hasselt, 1823)
       Local name: Fota leja Kakila
   Genus: Strongylura
       Species: Strongylura leiura (Bleeker, 1850)

Family: Hemirhamphidae
   Genus: Hyporhamphus
       Species: Hyporhamphus quoyi (Valenciennes, 1847)
       Local name: Ek thuta
       Genus: Hyporhamphus
       Species: Hyporhamphus xanthopterus (Valenciennes, 1847)
       Local name: Ek thuta

Order: Cyprinodontiformes
   Family: Cyprinodontidae
   Genus: Aplocheilus
       Species: Aplocheilus panchax (Hamilton, 1822)
       Local name: Kanpona, Tinchouka

Order: Channiformes
   Family: Channidae
   Genus: Channa
       Species: Channa punctata (Bloch, 1793)
       Local name: Taki
       Species: Channa orientalis (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)
       Local name: Cheng, Gachua
       Species: Channa striata (Bloch, 1793)
       Local name: Shol
       Species: Channa barca (Hamilton, 1822)
       Local name: Tilashol, Pipla
       Species: Channa marulius (Hamilton, 1822)
       Local name: Gozar

Order: Scopeleiformes
   Family: Harpodontidae
   Genus: Harpodon
       Species: Harpodon nehereus (Hamilton, 1822)
       Local name: Loitta

   Family: Engraulidae
   Genus: Thryssa
       Species: Thryssa hamiltonii (Grey, 1835)

Order: Mugiliformes
   Family: Mugilidae
   Genus: Mugil
       Species: Mugil cephalus (Hamilton, 1822)
       Local name: Bhangon
   Genus: Liza
       Species: Liza parsia (Hamilton, 1822)
       Local name: Parshe
       Genus: Rhinomugil
       Species: Rhinomugil corsula (Hamilton, 1822)
       Local name: Karsula

Order: Cypriniformes
Suborder: Cyprinoidei
Family: Cyprinidae
Sub-family: Rasborinae
Genus: *Esomus*
Species: *Esomus danricus* (Hamilton, 1822)
Sub-family: Cyprininae
Genus: *Amblypharyngodon*
Species: *Amblypharyngodon mola* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Mola, Maya
Genus: *Puntius*
Species: *Puntius sophore* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Puti, jatputi, vediputi
Species: *Puntius sarana* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Sar puti
Species: *Puntius terio* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Teri punti
Genus: *Labeo*
Species: *Labeo rohita* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Rohu
Species: *Labeo bata* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Bata
Species: *Labeo dero* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Bata
Species: *Labeo calbasu* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Kalibaus
Species: *Labeo boga* (Hamilton, 1822)
Species: *Labeo pungusia* (Hamilton, 1822)
Genus: *Cirrhinus*
Species: *Cirrhinus cirrhosus* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Mrigal
Species: *Labeo ariza* (Hamilton, 1807)
Local name: Raik Bata, Bhangon bata
Genus: *Catla*
Species: *Catla catla* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Catla
Family: Cobitidae
Genus: *Lepidocephalichthys*
Species: *Lepidocephalichthys guntea* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Gutum
Species: *Lepidocephalichthys berdmorei* (Blyth, 1860)
Local name: Puiya
Genus: *Nemachilus*
Species: *Nemachilus zonlternans* (Blyth, 1860)
Local name: Balichata
Genus: *Batia*
Species: *Batia Dario* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Rani
Sub-Order: Siluroidei
Family: Claridae
Genus: *Clarias*
Species: *Clarias batrachus* (Linnaeus, 1758)
Local name: Magur
Family: Siluridae
Genus: *Wallago*
Species: *Wallago attu* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)
Local name: Boal
Genus: *Ompok*
Species: *Ompok bimaculatus* (Bloch, 1794)
Local name: Kani pabda.
Species: *Ompok pabda* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: pabda
Family: Heteropeustidae
Genus: *Heteropneustes*
   Species: *Heteropneustes fossilis* (Bloch, 1794)
   Local name: Shingi

Family: Plotosidae
Genus: *Plotosus*
   Species: *Plotosus canius* (Hamilton, 1822)
   Local name: Gang magur
   Species: *Plotosus lineatus* (Bloch, 1794)

Family: Schilbeidae
Genus: *Pseudeutropius*
   Species: *Pseudeutropius atherinoides* (Bloch, 1794)
   Local name: Batasi

Genus: *Ailia*
   Species: *Ailia coila* (Hamilton, 1822)
   Local name: Kajuli, Baspata

Genus: *Silonia*
   Species: *Silonia silondia* (Hamilton, 1822)
   Local name: Cylinder, Shillong

Genus: *Clupisoma*
   Species: *Clupisoma garua* (Hamilton, 1822)
   Local name: Gaura

Family: Bagridae
Genus: *Sperata*
   Species: *Sperata aor* (Hamilton, 1822)
   Local name: Ayre
   Species: *Mystus vittatus* (Bloch, 1794)
   Local name: Tangra
   Species: *Mystus cavasius* (Hamilton, 1822)
   Local name: Ghulsa tangra
   Species: *Mystus gulio* (Hamilton, 1822)
   Local name: Nuna tengra

Family: Sisoridae
Genus: *Bagarius*
   Species: *Bagarius bagarius* (Hamilton, 1822)
   Local name: Baghair

Family: Tachysuridae
Genus: *Batrachocephalus*
   Species: *Batrachocephalus mino* (Hamilton, 1822)

Genus: *Arius*
   Species: *Arius platystomus* (Day, 1877)
   Local name: Med mach
   Species: *Arius jella* (Day, 1877)

Genus: *Osteogeniosus*
   Species: *Osteogeniosus militaris* (Hamilton, 1822)

Order: Clupeiformes
Family: Notopteridae
Genus: *Chital*
   Species: *Chital chitala* (Hamilton, 1822)
   Local name: Chital
   Species: *Notopterus notopterus* (Pallas, 1769)
   Local name: Foli

Family: Clupeidae
Genus: *Gonialosa*
   Species: *Gonialosa manminna* (Hamilton, 1822)
   Local name: Goni chapila

Genus: *Gudusia*
   Species: *Gudusia chapra* (Hamilton, 1822)
   Local name: Khaira, Chapila

Genus: *Tenualosa*
   Species: *Tenualosa ilisha* (Hamilton, 1822)
   English name: Ilish

Genus: *Opisthopterus*
Species: *Opisthopterus tardoore* (Swainson, 1839)
English name: Indian shad

Family: Chirocentridae
Genus: *Chirocentrus*
Species: *Chirocentrus dorab* (Forsskal, 1775)
Local name: Karati chala

Family: Engraulidae
Genus: *Coilia*
Species: *Coilia ramcarati* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Olua, Megha olua

Order: Perciformes
Sub-order: Anabantoidei
Family: Anabantidae
Genus: *Colisa*
Species: *Colisa fasciata* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)
Local name: Khalisha
Species: *Colisa lalia* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Lal Khalisa
Genus: *Anabas*
Species: *Anabas testudineus* (Bloch, 1792)
Local name: Koi

Sub-order: Mastacembeloidei
Family: Mastacembelidae
Genus: *Mastacembelus*
Species: *Mastacembelus armatus* (Lacepede, 1800)
Local name: Sal bain
Genus: *Macronathus*
Species: *Macronathus panculus* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Guchi bain
Species: *Macronathus aculeatus* (Bloch, 1786)
Local name: Tara bain

Sub-order: Polynemoidei
Family: Polynemidae
Genus: *Polynemus*
Species: *Leptomelanosoma indicum* (Shaw, 1804)
Local name: Tairol
Species: *Polynemus paradiseus* (Linnaeus, 1758)
Local name: Tapasi, Muni, Rishi
Genus: *Eleutheronema*
Species: *Eleutheronema tetradactylum*
Local name: Tailla

Family: Serranidae
Genus: *Epinephelus*
Species: Epinephelus malabaricus (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)
English Name: Malabar grouper
Species: *Epinephelus coioides* (Hamilton, 1822)
English Name: Orange-spotted grouper
Local name: Komlafota bale

Sub-order: Gobioidae
Family: Taenioididae
Genus: *Trypauchen*
Species: *Trypauchen vagina* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)
Local name: Sada chewa
Genus: *Taenioides*
Species: *Taenioides buchanani* (Day, 1873)
English Name: Burmese gobyeel
Local name: Raja chewa

Family: Gobiidae
Genus: *Paragobiodon*
Species: *Paragobiodon echinocephalus* (Rüppell, 1830)
English Name: Redhead goby
Local name: Bhut bele, Nondi bele
Genus: *Brachygobius*
   Species: *Brachygobius nunus* (Hamilton, 1822)
   Local name: Nuna bele

Genus: *Apocryptes*
   Species: *Apocryptes bato* (Hamilton, 1822)
   Local name: Gula/Dogri/Chiring

Genus: *Gobiopsis*
   Species: *Gobiopsis macrostoma* (Steindachner, 1860)
   English name: Longjaw goby
   Local name: Bele

Genus: *Oplopomus*
   Species: *Oplopomus oplopomus* (Valenciennes, 1837)
   English name: Spinecheek goby
   Local name: Sona bele

Genus: *Glossogobius*
   Species: *Glossogobius giuris* (Hamilton, 1822)
   English name: Bele
   Local name: Bele

Sub-order: Percoidei
Family: Sillaginidae
   Genus: *Sillaginopsis*
      Species: *Sillaginopsis panijus* (Hamilton, 1822)
      English name: Flathead sillago
      Local name: Tular dandi

Family: Scatophagidae
   Genus: *Scatophagus*
      Species: *Scatophagus argus* (Linnaeus, 1766)
      English name: Spotted scat
      Local name: Bishtara

Family: Teraponidae
   Genus: *Terapon*
      Species: *Terapon jarbua* (Forsskål, 1775)
      English name: Jarbua terapon

Family: Nandidae
   Genus: *Nandas*
      Species: *Nandas nanda* (Hamilton, 1822)
      Local name: Royna, Bheda, Meni
      Family: Centropomidae

   Genus: *Lates*
      Species: *Lates calcarifer* (Bloch, 1790)
      English name: Barramundi
      Local name: Bhetki

Family: Centropomidae
   Genus: *Chanda*
      Species: *Chanda nama* (Hamilton, 1822)
      Local name: Nama chanda
      Species: *Chanda baculis* (Hamilton, 1822)
      Local name: Chanda
      Species: *Chanda ranga* (Hamilton, 1822)
      Local name: Chanda

Family: Carangidae
   Genus: *Carangoides*
      Species: *Carangoides malabaricus* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)
      English name: Malabar trevally

   Genus: *Chorineus*
      Species: *Scomberoides lysan* (Forsskål, 1775)
      English name: Doublespotted queenfish

Family: *Atropus*
   Species: *Atropus atropos* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)
   English name: Cleftbelly trevally
   Local name: Kuweh

Genus: *Alepes*
Species: *Alepes melanoptera* (Hamilton, 1822)  
Local name: Dora Mouri

Family: Carangidae  
Genus: *Scomberoides*  
Species: *Scomberoides commersonnianus* (Lacepède, 1801)  
English name: Talang queenfish

Family: Pomadasyidae  
Genus: *Pomadasyx*  
Species: *Pomadasyx maculatus* (Bloch, 1793)  
English Name: Saddle grunt

Family: Lutianidae  
Genus: *Lutianus*  
Species: *Lutianus sanguineus* (Cuvier, 1828)  
English Name: Humphead snapper  
Species: *Lutianus johni* (Bloch, 1792)  
Local name: Patina

Family: Gerridae  
Genus: *Pentaprion*  
Species: *Pentaprion longimanus* (Cantor, 1849)  
English name: Longfin mojarra

Family: Pomadasyidae  
Genus: *Pomadasyx*  
Species: *Pomadasyx kaakan* (Cuvier, 1830)  
English name: Javelin grunt  
Species: *Pomadasyx argyreus* (Valenciennes, 1833)  
English name: Bluecheek silver grunt  
Local name: Sada datina

Family: Mullidae  
Genus: *Upeneus*  
Species: *Upeneus molucensis* (Bleeker, 1855)  
Species: *Upeneus vittatus* (Forsskål, 1775)  
English name: Yellowstriped goatfish

Family: Scianidae  
Genus: *Otolithes*  
Species: *Pterotolithus maculatus* (Cuvier, 1830)  
Local name: Guti poa

Genus: *Pennahia*  
Species: *Pennahia argentata* (Houttuyn, 1782)  
Local name: Vola

Genus: *Johnius*  
Species: *Johnius dussumieri* (Cuvier, 1830)  
English Name: Sin croaker

Family: Leiognathidae  
Genus: *Leiognathus*  
Species: *Leiognathus bindus* (Valenciennes, 1835)  
English Name: Orangefin ponyfish  
Local name: Comla chanda

Family: Taenioididae  
Genus: *Odontamblyopus*  
Species: *Odontamblyopus rubicundus* (Hamilton, 1822)  
Local name: Lal chewa

Family: Chilidae  
Genus: *Oreochromis*  
Species: *Oreochromis niloticus* (Hamilton, 1822)  
Local name: Tilapia

Family: Toxotidae  
Genus: *Toxotes*  
Species: *Toxotes chatareus* (Hamilton, 1822)  
Local name: Putki
Family: Menidae  
   Genus: Mene  
      Species: Mene maculata (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)  
      Local name: Mini mach

Family: Sparidae  
   Genus: Rhabdosargus  
      Species: Rhabdosargus sarba (Forsskal, 1775)

Family: Pentapodidae  
   Genus: Argyrops  
      Species: Argyrops spinifer (Forsskal, 1775)  
      Local name: Lal datina

Family: Drepanidae  
   Genus: Drepane  
      Species: Drepane punctata (Linnaeus, 1758)  
      Local name: Pan mach

Family: Plectorhynchidae  
   Genus: Diagramma  
      Species: Diagramma pictum (Thunberg, 1792)

Family: Lobotidae  
   Genus: Datnoides  
      Species: Datnoides polota (Hamilton, 1822)

Suborder: Scombroidei  
   Family: Scombridae  
      Genus: Rastrelliger  
         Species: Rastrelliger kanagurta (Cuvier, 1816)  
         English name: Rake gilled mackerel

Family: Thunnidae  
   Genus: Thunnus  
      Species: Thunnus tonggol (Bleeker, 1851)

Suborder: Stromatolei  
   Family: Stromatopidae  
      Genus: Parastromateus  
         Species: Parastromateus niger (Bloch, 1795)  
         Local name: Maissa chanda

   Genus: Pampus  
      Species: Pampus chinensis (Euphrasen, 1788)  
      Local name: Rup Chanda  
      Species: Pampus argenteus (Euphrasen, 1788)  
      Local name: Foli chanda

Suborder: Trichiuroidei  
   Family – Trichiuridae  
      Genus: Trichiurus  
         Species: Trichiurus lepturus (Linnaeus, 1758)  
         Local name: Churi

Suborder: Tetrodonoidae  
   Family: Diodontidae  
      Genus: Diodon  
         Species: Diodon hystrix (Linnaeus, 1758)  
         English name: Spotted porcupine fish

Suborder: Cottoidei  
   Family: Platycephalidae  
      Genus: Thysanophrys  
         Species: Thysanophrys indicus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Order: Decapoda  
   Family: Penaeidae  
      Genus: Penaeus  
         Species: Penaeus monodon  
         Local name: Bagda

   Genus: Metapenaeus  
      Species: Metapenaeus brevicornis
English name: Bird shrimp
Species: *Metapenaeus monoceros*

Family: Palaemonidae

Genus: *Macrobrachium*
Species: *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* (De man)
Local name: Golda chingri
Species: *Macrobrachium rude*
Local name: Golda chingri
Species: *Macrobrachium dolichodactylus*
Local name: Brammani chingri

Family – Scyllaridae

Genus: *Panulirus*
Species: *Panulirus ornatus* (Fabricus)
English name- Yellow ring spiny lobster

Genus: *Thenus*
Species: *Thenus orientalis*
English name: Sand lobster

Family: Portunidae

Genus: *Scylla*
Species: *Scylla olivacea*
English Name: Mud Crab
Local name: Kankra

**Discussion**

Identification of the specimen was done after Rahman (1989), Munro (2000) and FishBase (2007). From the foregoing list of the species, it is seen that the Order Perciformes was most prominent being represented with a total of 62 species. Next to this was the Cypriniformes with 37 species; the other Orders were Clupeiformes with 8 species, Channiformes with 5 species, Beloniformes and Rajiformes each with 4 species and Lamniformes and Mugiliformes each with 3 species. The Decapoda crustacean was represented with 9 species. The available information suggests that the species under the Order Perciformes are majority of estuarine and marine dwellers and since the collections were made from the coastal waters of greater Khulna region, their number was thus more represented in the study. The Order Cypriniformes, though, mainly a freshwater one, their presence in the present collection made from the fresh and semi saline waters of the region is also noteworthy.

There was a drawback in the collection process; it was not possible to make collection from the offshore/marine waters of the region, thus many of the unconventional species from the offshore waters could not be included in the collection. The fishermen catching fish from the offshore waters do not bring the species in the inland markets either; rather they discard them in the sea. Thus, if the unconventional species could be obtained, the list could have been bigger. However, because of this drawback, the number of species reported in this study could not be as high as the number of species reported by Seidensticker and Hai (1978), Anon (1974) or Bernacsek (2000) from the Sundarbans waters. Barnacsek was involved in the Sundarbans Biodiversity Conservation project. The project Head Quarter though was in Khulna, there was no available information about preservation and establishment of a museum of specimen collected by the project from the Sundarbans waters, nor were there any concerted efforts on preservation of fish or crustaceans of Sundarbans waters by anybody in the country. So, this was by far the first ever effort to establish a museum of the specimens of fish and crustaceans available in the area as a whole.

**Conclusion**

The aim of the study was to collect, identify and to establish a museum of species of fish and crustaceans available in the south-west coastal region of the country. The area is rich in ecological diversity because of the presence of the Sundarbans mangrove forest. Fisheries and Marine Resource Technology Discipline in Khulna University undertakes fisheries education and research. To be able to play a role in the study of biology and systematics of the fisheries organisms, the Discipline should possess an informative museum of the species. The collection, though, had drawback in itself, resulted a list of 137 species of fish and 9 species of shrimp and prawn belonging to 17 Orders, 73 Families and 112 Genera. The specimen were preserved, labeled and shelved in a museum of Fisheries and Marine Resource Technology Discipline. It is hoped that the museum would play the expected role in fisheries education and research in the country.

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**References**


