



Current Status of Ichthyofauna in Bhilaura Taal at Bhilaura Baso Village of District Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh, India

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Abstract

Study of diversity of fishes in Bhilaura Taalat Bhilaura Baso Village, block Fakharpur of district Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh during the month May 2024 to March 2025. The survey indicates a rich fishes diversity of the said Bhilaura Taal. The notable fishes diversity includes 14 fish species belonging to 12 genera and 8 families were collected and identified in Taal. Finally it concluded that shows large fishes diversity, this natural water body needs to protection and more suitable for Fish culture.

Keywords: BhilauraTaal, block Fakharpur, Bahraich (U.P.), Ichthyofauna diversity

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Introduction

Fishes are the group of subphylum-Vertebrata, division Gnathostomata. Fishes are cold-blooded aquatic Vertebrates that breathe through pharyngeal gills, propelling and balancing themselves using fins. Fishes in simple definition are aquatic vertebrates that have gills throughout life and limbs, if any in the shape of fins. Among vertebrates, fishes constitute an amazing group that exhibits remarkable morphological diversity, inhabiting habitats and biology. Fishes have existed for more than 450 million years, during which time they have evolved repeatedly to fit in to almost every conceivable type of aquatic habitat. Some fish, like lungfishes, are of Zoological importance because of their discontinuous distribution and anatomical features. They also play an essential role in the aquatic ecosystem and are important for fish culture. Fishes make up over half of the world's living vertebrates. While freshwater habitats cover only a small portion of the earth's surface water, they support an inappropriately large number of fish species (Nelson et al., 2016).

India is home to a diverse range of fish species in both its inland and marine waters, with a high percentage of endemic species (Gopi et al., 2017).

Global Fish diversity: A total of 36,640 fish species belonging to 5248 genera are distributed globally. Of these, 18,614 are found in freshwater (Fricke et al., 2023).

Fish Diversity in India: In India, 3523 fish species belonging to 1097 genera and 272 families of 55 orders are recorded. A systematic checklist of the fishes of India is furnished below. The classification of fishes follows Vander Laan et al. (2023).

Fish diversity in Uttar Pradesh: Fishes in Uttar Pradesh contain 153 fish species. Freshwater fish are fish species that spend some or all of their lives in bodies of fresh water such as rivers, lakes, ponds and inland wetlands. Uttar Pradesh, one of the largest states in India, has vast potential of aquatic freshwater resources and offers a

considerable scope of culture as well as capture fisheries development. Therefore, there lies the scope for utilization of these vast resources for fishery development. In spite of vast freshwater resources, the fishery has been assigned the least priority among the long chain of stakeholders of Uttar Pradesh. The presence of many natural wetlands in the form of ponds and lakes in the Tarai region of Eastern Uttar Pradesh offers immense scope and potential for inland fishery development.

Uttar Pradesh is the most popular state of our country. The agriculture and allied activities form the backbone of its economy. Being landlocked, it is endowed with an abundant supply of inland water resources (11.65 lakh ha) that are ideal for fishery and aquaculture. At present, the state ranks 6th in inland fish production in the country. The availability of 7.20 lakh ha of running water in the form of rivers and canals harbouring ichthyofaunal diversity further enriches the state. Till yesteryears, the rivers of the state formed the mainstay of inland fish production, which has gradually declined alarmingly. One aspect of the environment of the water bodies is that they are facing the threat of pollution from an increasing number of new chemicals released into the aquatic environment continuously. It has been reported that almost every river system of India is now polluted to a considerable extent (Singh and Aggarwal, 1998). Huge amounts of agricultural pesticides used for crop protection eventually enter into the aquatic system (Ponds, lakes, wheels and Dam). Similarly, sediments of heavy metals which are released as industrial effluents form a major part of aquatic pollution. The presence of excessive quantities of contamination in water caused the death of aquatic organisms in the past (Wangane et al., 1994).

Fishes from eastern Uttar Pradesh have been reported by Srivastava (1958), who listed 87 fish species. Hora (1949) made a detailed study on river Rihand fish fauna and recorded 42 species. Motiwani and David (1957) reported 95 fish species from river Son and Srivastava et al. (1965), 55 species from river Ken district Banda, U.P., Menon (1974) listed 141 species occurring in

Ganga river system and Natarajan (1989) while studying environmental impact on fisheries of Ganga river system recorded 45 commercially important fishes at important landing centres situated along the bank of river Ganga.

Studies of taxonomy (Ichthyofaunal diversity) have been immense interest to researchers of all times (Day, 1978, Hamilton, 1922 and Menon, 1992). Many species of fishes are found in different ponds, lakes, dams and rivers, Many workers have worked on the fish species of different reservoirs of Uttar Pradesh. Fish from Uttar Pradesh have been reported by Srivastava (2002) who listed 87 fish species. Hora (1949) made a detail study on river Rihand fish fauna and recorded 42 fish species. Welch (1952), Motwani and David (1957) reported 95 fish species from river Sone and Srivastava et.al. (1966) reported 55 fish species from river Ken, district Banda, Uttar Pradesh. Menon (1992) listed 141 fish species occurring in Ganga river system. Joshi (1994) has given an account of the fish fauna of Kali river. Jitendra Kumar et.al. (2013) reported 62 fish species belonging to 41 genera from various water body sources of district Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh. Nagma and Afzal Khan (2013) listed 36 fish species belonging to 23 genera from water bodies of district Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh. Shukla and Singh (2013) listed 18 fish species belonging to 17 genera from Aami river Gorakhpur. Verma et.al. (2015) reported 83 fish species belonging to 58 genera from water sources of Lucknow district, Uttar Pradesh. Seema Jain (2017) listed 61 fish species belonging to 38 genera from various water sources Western Uttar Pradesh, India. Similar results other fish faunal diversities, wetlands have also been noted by Munshi and Srivastava (1988), Talwar and Jhingran (1991), Jain (1998), Menon (1999), Jagera et.al. (2001), Singh and Mishra (2001), Yadav (2005), Pandey and Das (2006), Vishwanath (2007), Lakra et.al. (2008), Dua and Prakash (2009), Lakra and Pandey (2009), Tamboli and Jha (2012), Kumar (2012), Sharma et.al. (2012), Bhattacharjee (2013), Fischer (2013), Jagtap (2013), Shukla and Singh (2013), Kaushik and Bordoloi (2016), Bhat and Rao (2018), Verma et.al. (2018) listed 45 fish

species belonging to 32 genera from Bakhiya lake, Uttar Pradesh, India.

Fish diversity in Seetadwar lake of district Shravasti (U.P.), India observation was carried out July 2019 to June 2020 for a period of one year, various fishes collected from this lake are found to be very common in respect of other lentic water bodies of Shravasti belt and are represented by 6 orders, 11 families, 15 genera and 23 species. The family Cyprinidae was observed as the most abundant of all, consisting 7 species. Although 23 species were recorded, genus *Mystus* and *Channa* genera were the dominant (Tripathi and Kamlesh, 2020).

The objective of the present study was to document Current status of Ichthyofaunal in Bhilaura Taal at block Fakharpur of district Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh, India.

Location of Bhilaura Taal of district Bahraich:

Bhilaura Taalat Village- Bhilaura Basoof Block- Fakharpur of district Bahraich is located 27.4228772 latitude and 81.5246705 longitude and Bahraich is a city and a municipal board in Bahraich district in the state of Uttar Pradesh, India. Located on the Saryu river, a tributary of the Ghaghara river Bahraich is 125 Km north-east of Lucknow, the state capital. The districts of Barabanki, Gonda, Balrampur, Lakhimpur Kheri, Shravasti and Sitapur are boundaries with Bahraich. A factor which makes this town important is the international border shared with Nepal (Map-1, 2 & 3).

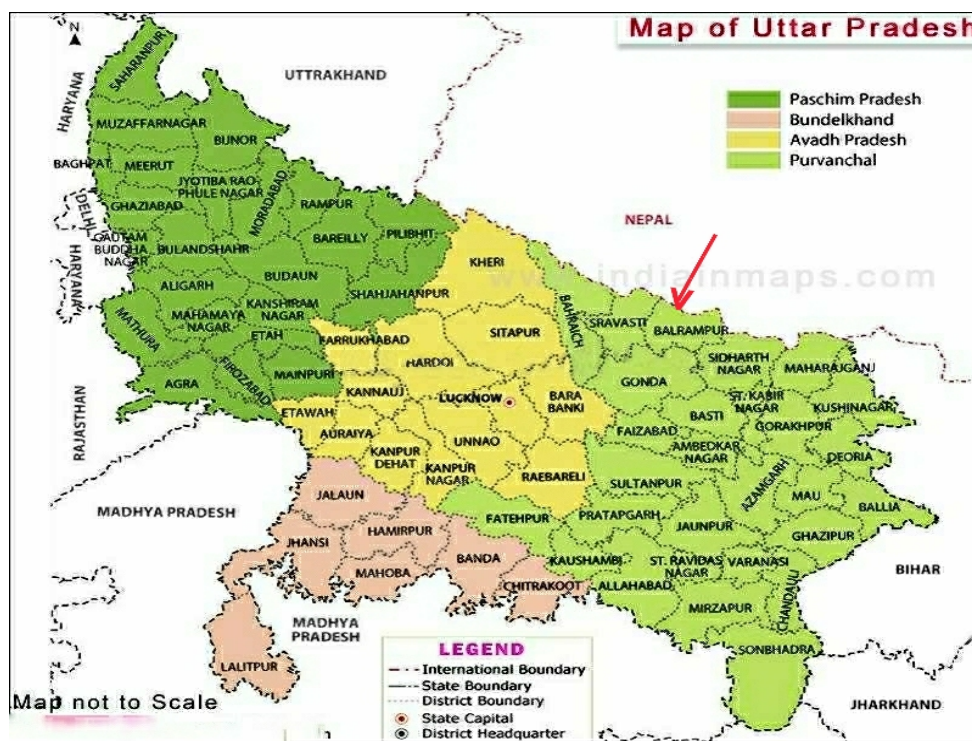
Bhilaura Taal at Village-Bhilaura Baso in Fakharpur block, Fakharpur is situated Bahraich to Jarwal road National highway in Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh state, India. It belongs to Devipatan Division. It is located 25 Km towards south from the district head quarters Bahraich. 11 Km from block-Fakharpur, 101 Km from state capital Lucknow. Piyarepur (3KM), Bhilaura Kaji (3KM), Supani (4KM), Chandradipa (4KM), Umari (4KM) are the nearby Villages to Bhilaura Baso. Bhilaura Baso is surrounded by Fakharpur block towards west, Kaiserganj block towards

south, Tajwapur block towards north and Payagpur block towards east. Bahraich, Nanpara, Balrampur, Saidpur are the nearby cities to Bhilaura Baso(Map-4).Bhilaura Taal at Bhilaura

Baso Village is covered area is about 12 KM and this Taal run to south to Bahraich city and connect to Saryu river at Lakshmanghat. Many migratory birds are also found here during August to October (Fig.-1,2&3).



Map-1: Location of Study Area in India

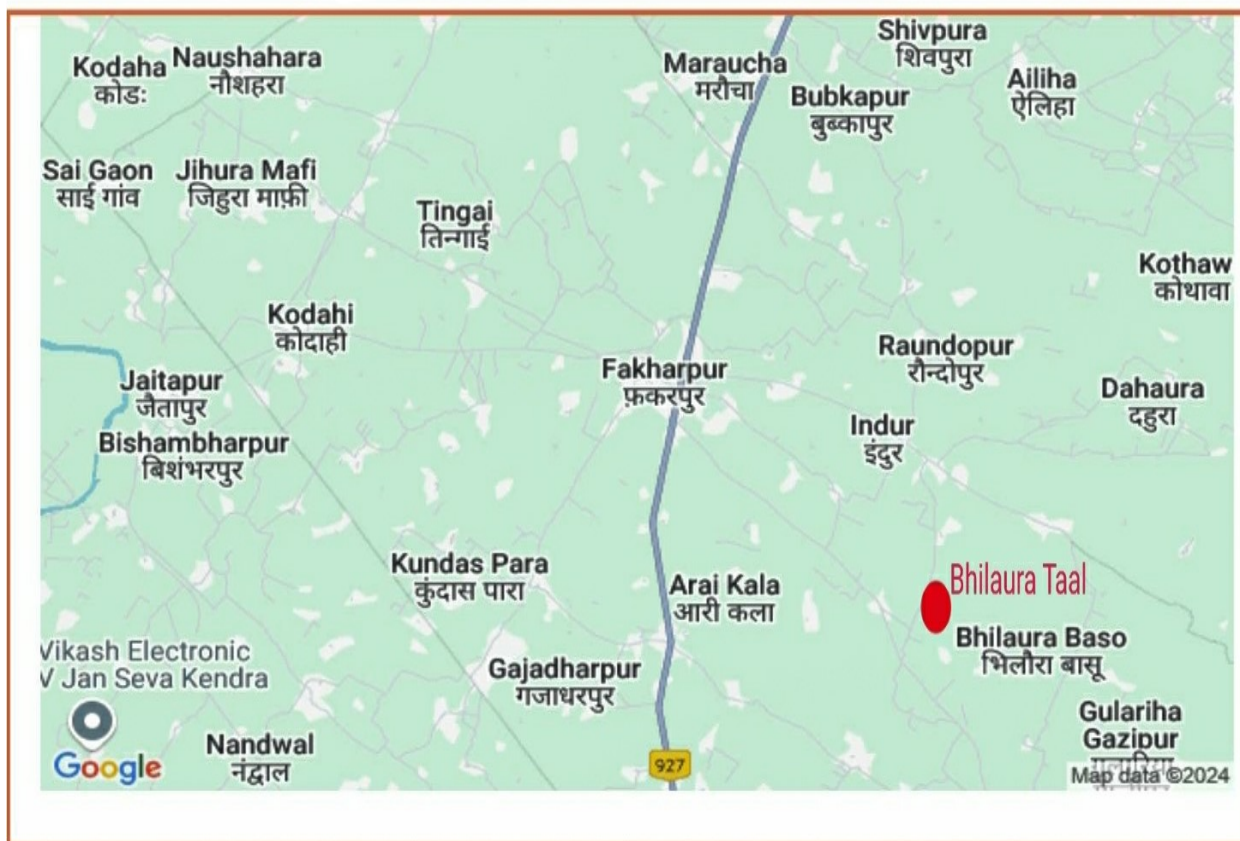


Map-2: Location of study area of Uttar Pradesh



Map-3: Location of study area of district Bahraich

Fakharpur Map ,District-Bahraich,Uttar Pradesh



Map-4 : Location of Bhilaura Taal at Village Bhilaura Baso of district Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh

Materials and Methods

The present work was carried out for period of 11 months from May 2024 to March 2025 for completion of exhaustive work and the standard methods described for the purpose have been used. A short description of materials and methods applied during the present investigation has been presented below:

In Bhilaura Taal, fishes were caught and collected for the study from four sites of this Taal by hand nets, gill nets, cast nets, hook and drag nets with the help of local people and Fishermans mainly during the time of fishing. Investigation regarding fish capture and collection were conducted

fortnightly that is every week during the study period from the Bhilaura Taal, May 2024 to March 2025 (Fig.-1 & 2).

Identification of fishes was done up to species level at Taalto gets its natural colour, pattern of scales, fins, mouth pattern, identification marks like black spots, bloach on operculum, paired and unpaired fins and body parts with the help of standard literature by Day (1978), Jhingran(1991), Talwar et.al.(1991), Jayram(1999), Srivastava (1958), Interaction with local people also assisted the authors in various ways for fish data collection and identification.



Fig.-1: Bhilaura Taal of district Bahraich (U.P.), India



Fig.-2: Fish Collection for the study by Investigator in Bhilaura Taal of district Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh



Fig.-3: Fish Collection for the Study by Investigator and Fisherman in Bhilaura Taal

Results and Discussion

During present study, total of 14 fish species belonging to 12 genera and 8 families were collected and identified. The detail of these fishes are listed in (Table:1, Image-1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8, 9,10, 11,12,13 and 14). Fish diversity comprised of 8 families namely- Bagridae (1 species), Belonidae (1 species), Clariidae (1 species), Cyprinidae (6 species), Heteropneustidae (1 species), Notopteridae (1 species), Ophiocephalidae (2 species) and Siluridae (1 species), Table:2.

The family-Cyprinidae was observed as the most abundant contains 6 fish species, namely- *Catla catla*, *Cirrhinus reba*, *Cyprinus carpio*, *Labeo calbasu*, *Labeo rohita* and *Puntius chola* were recorded while second abundant family-Clariidae contains one species, namely-*Clarias batrachus* was recorded, family-Ophiocephalidae contains two species, namely- *Channamarulius*, *Channa*

punctatus, family-Bagridae contains one species, namely- *Mystus Seenghala*, family-Belonidae contains one species, namely-*Xenentodon cancila*, family-Heteropneustidae contains one species, namely-*Heteropneustes fossilis*, family-Notopteridae contains one species, namely-*Notopterus notopterus*, family-Siluridae contains one species, namely-*Wallago attu* were also recorded during our survey in Seetadwar lake. In this way we recorded 14 fish species. *Heteropneustes fossilis* and *Mystus* species are economically important but these fish species are illegally exploited by the local peoples of this area. Several workers have works in various lentic and lotic water bodies regarding the distribution and abundance of fish species, Dubey(1959), Singh(1994), Jayram (1999), Singh and Mishra(2001), Srivastava (2002), Tewari (2006), Regi and Kumar (2012), Shukla and Singh (2013), Wani and Gupta (2015), Seema Jain (2017), Verma (2018), Tripathi (2020), Shukla and Tripathi (2021).

Table-1: Observation of Ichthyofauna in Bhilaura Taal of district Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh, India

(Data of May2024 to March 2025)

S.No .	Common name	Family	Scientific Name
1	Tengra	Bagridae	<i>Mystusse enghala</i>
2	Kauwa	Belonidae	<i>Xenentodon cancila</i>
3	Magur	Clariidae	<i>Clarias batrachus</i>
4	Bhakur	Cyprinidae	<i>Catla catla</i>
5	Naini/Reba	Cyprinidae	<i>Cirrhinus reba</i>
6	Common carp	Cyprinidae	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>
7	Black rohu	Cyprinidae	<i>Labeo calbasu</i>
8	Rohu	Cyprinidae	<i>Labeo rohita</i>
9	Sidhari	Cyprinidae	<i>Puntius chola</i>
10	Singhi	Heteropneustidae	<i>Heteropneustes fossilis</i>
11	Chital/ Moya	Notopteridae	<i>Notopterus chitala</i>
12	Saur	Ophiocephalidae	<i>Channa marulius</i>
13	Girai	Ophiocephalidae	<i>Channa punctatus</i>
14	Padhni	Siluridae	<i>Wallago attu</i>

Table-2: Family wise number of fish species in Bhilaura Taal of district Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh, India

(Data of May 2024 to March 2025)

S.No.	Family	Number of Genus	Number of species
1	Bagridae	1	1
2	Belonidae	1	1
3	Clariidae	1	1
4	Cyprinidae	5	6
5	Heteropneustidae	1	1
6	Notopteridae	1	1
7	Ophiocephalidae	1	2
8	Siluridae	1	1

Photoplates of different Ichthyofauna in Bhilaura Taal



Image-1: Mystus seenghala



Image-2: Xenentodon cancila



Image-3: Clarias batrachus



Image-4: Catla catla



Image-5: Cirrhinus reba



Image-6: Cyprinus carpio



Image-7:Labeo calbasu



Image-8:Labeo rohita



Image-9:Puntius chola



Image-10:Heteropneustes fossilis



Image-11:Notopterus chitala



Image-12:Channa marulius



Image-13: Channa punctatus



Image-14: Wallago attu

Conclusion

The result of this study shows that Bhilaura Taal of district Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh is very rich in fish species diversity and sustains high productivity, this water body is most suitable for fish culture. The observation can be utilized for decision making and management in a scientific manners. There is an immediate need of more conservation programme in order to retain this natural fresh water body in Bhilaura Taal of district Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh.

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