



POST GRADUATE DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION BIOLOGY
DURGAPUR GOVERNMENT COLLEGE

INDIAN WILDLIFE

NEWSLETTER NO: CONB/ WILDLIFE/ 2022/ 2

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Friends and Colleagues,
Good morning to all!

It is a great pleasure to open the second newsletter of Department of Conservation Biology, Durgapur Government College. This newsletter is mainly published to highlight the academic and co-curricular activities carried out by the Department as a team or as an individual during the second half of the academic year 2022-2023. Apart from this, a news corner dedicated to the coastal and marine conservation in India is also a part of this endeavour.

Through this newsletter, ideas and messages regarding wildlife conservation and threats will be dealt with and students of this course will learn a new approach to conservation and protection.

I wish all the best to the faculty members, research scholars and students.

Dr. Debnath Palit
Principal

Durgapur Government College

24th January 2023

NEWSLETTER OF CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

The Newsletter of Conservation Biology displays a compilation of information on the wildlife, their habitats and their conservation status around the globe in the news corner. Some information published here are obtained from free and publicly available sources such as the internet, newspapers and other publications. The publisher of this newsletter does not make any claim on the authenticity of the contents of the secondary sources of information. The information does not necessarily represent any official views of the publisher.

Cover Photo: Sanchari Sarkar



BEST PRESENTER OF THE REGION: SANGHAMITRA SANYAL



The fifth Regional Science and Technology Congress, 2022-23 was held on January 6 - 7, for the participants of Region 7 comprising of Purba Bardhaman, Paschim Bardhaman and Hooghly districts at the University of Burdwan, jointly organized by The Department of Science & Technology and Biotechnology, Government of West Bengal and The University of Burdwan in order to encourage and provide a forum for scientific research especially for the young scientists and synergies new ideas with societal needs. It comprised memorial lectures by Prof. Suman Kr. Dhar, from Special Centre for molecular medicine, JNU. It was followed by a series of invited lectures by eminent scientists, oral presentation of papers from twelve disciplines, panel discussions and the day ended with a cultural program. Three hundred and ninety-one papers were presented in a competition format judged by eminent scientists of respective fields. Scholars and P. G. student from the department presented three papers in Environmental Science discipline on topics or modelling, air quality and water quality along with thirty other participants from various colleges and universities, following a riveting lecture by Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman of West Bengal Pollution Control Board. Chairpersons Prof. S. C. Santra, former Prof. of Kalyani University and Prof. Shibani Choudhury, former Prof. of Visva-Bharati were judges and the entire event was coordinated by Prof. Apurba Ratan Ghosh, Department of Environmental Science, University of Burdwan. **Mr. Sanghamitra Sanyal, a scholar of this department**, won the first prize

in the competition for his paper "Time Series Analysis of Groundwater Quality at selected sites of Purba and Paschim Burdwan, West Bengal, India" and will move on to further compete at the State Congress.



PAPERS AND ABSTRACTS PUBLISHED FROM THE DEPARTMENT AROUND THE GLOBE



Journal of Animal Diversity

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Volume 4, Issue 1 (2022)

Research Article

<http://dx.doi.org/10.52547/JAD.2022.4.1.7>

Study of winter avifauna diversity from a man-made reservoir in the West Bengal, India

Debayan Gayen^{1*}, Biswajit Mukherjee², Sanchari Sarkar³, Bappa Goswami⁴, Sagar Adhurya⁵ and Moitreyee Chakraborty⁶

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a section of the journal
Frontiers in Conservation Science

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CITATION
Chatterjee M, Chatterjee N, Chandel P,
Bhattacharya T and Kaul R (2022)

Predicting negative human-tiger (*Panthera tigris*) interactions in mosaic landscapes around Dudhwa and Pilibhit tiger reserves in India

Mayukh Chatterjee^{1,2*}, Nilanjan Chatterjee³, Poonam Chandel², Tapajit Bhattacharya^{2,4} and Rahul Kaul²

¹North of England Zoological Society (Chester Zoo), Upton-by-Chester, Chester, United Kingdom, ²Wildlife Trust of India, Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Division, National Capital Region, Uttar Pradesh, India, ³Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, United States, ⁴Department of Conservation Biology, Durgapur Government College, Durgapur, West Bengal, India

Negative interactions between humans and large carnivores like tigers (*Panthera tigris*) and leopards (*Panthera pardus*) are of concern for the conservation of these carnivores, as well as for the health and wellbeing of



Article

Wild Felid Diversity, Space Use and Activity Patterns in the Eastern Himalaya, India

Tawqir Bashir^{1,2*}, Tapajit Bhattacharya^{1,3}, Kamal Poudyal^{1,4} and Sambandam Sathyakumar^{1,5}

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Abstract: Species with similar resource requirements cannot coexist for long. To facilitate co-existence, carnivores adapt different strategies to partition the available resources in space and time. In high-altitude ecosystems with limited resources the operation becomes complex. We assessed species diversity and spatio-temporal resource partitioning among felid species inhabiting the intricate habitats of Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve (KBR), Eastern Himalaya. We used systematic camera trap surveys along with abundance and overlap indices to generate information on their space use and activity patterns. We recorded six species of felids belonging to five genera, including four species of global conservation importance. The differential use of space by felids was observed with respect to the habitat types determined by sharp altitudinal gradients with varied levels of spatial and altitudinal overlap. Maximum overlap was observed among Asiatic golden cat *Catopuma temminckii*, jungle cat *Felis chaus* and clouded leopard *Neofelis nebulosa*. The felids had distinct activity profiles from one other, particularly between golden cat and leopard cat *Prionailurus bengalensis*. Pianka's index also provided weak evidence for temporal overlap among species. The overall results indicate that habitat heterogeneity facilitates primary separation at the spatial scale, although species are also segregated temporally. Golden cat was the most adaptive felid in the area, depicting a peculiar pattern of spatio-temporal segregation with other species. We suspect either intense competition or dietary segregation among some species, and propose a further investigation of their diet and the activity patterns of their prey. The study presents an early template of carnivore community organization in resource-scarce high-altitude environments, thus, offering huge ecological and conservation significance.

check for updates

Citation: Bashir, T., Bhattacharya, T., Poudyal, K., Sathyakumar, S. Wild Felid Diversity, Space Use and Activity Patterns in the Eastern Himalaya, India. *Ecologies* 2022, 4:1-12

International Seminar on "Emerging Trends in Biological Sciences" on 08 November 2022

ISETBSP-6

EVALUATION OF TRADITIONAL ETHNOMEDICINAL SYSTEMS IN TWO SELECTED TRIBAL VILLAGES AND THEIR COMPARATIVE STUDY IN PASCHIM BARDHAMAN DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL

Sharmila Soren*, Moitreyee Chakraborty, Rajib Biswas and Tapajit Bhattacharya

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International Seminar on "Emerging Trends in Biological Sciences" on 08 November 2022

ISETBSP-6

SURVEY OF THE AQUATIC FLORA IN BAKRESWAR RESERVOIR WEST BENGAL, INDIA

Morali Biswas* and Rajib Biswas

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5th Regional Science & Technology Congress (Region 7), 2022

Environmental Science

EN-28

Assessment of Air Quality Index to Understand the Trend of the Ambient Air of Kolkata, West Bengal

Anisha Sharma*, Sanchari Sarkar, Sanghamitra Sanyal and Moitreyee Chakraborty

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5th Regional Science & Technology Congress (Region 7), 2022

Environmental Science

EN-13

Prediction of Air Pollution of Primary Pollutants in the Potential Industrial Zones of Paschim Bardhaman Using Statistical Models

Sanchari Sarkar*, Sanghamitra Sanyal and Moitreyee Chakraborty

¹Department of Conservation Biology, Durgapur Government College, Durgapur, West Bengal, 713214
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5th Regional Science & Technology Congress (Region 7), 2022

Environmental Science

EN-11

Time Series Analysis of Ground Water Quality at Selected Sites of Purba and Paschim Burdwan, West Bengal, India from 2010 to 2022

Sanghamitra Sanyal*, Sanchari Sarkar and Moitreyee Chakraborty

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STATE LEVEL SEMINAR ON CONSERVATION OF LIFE

A one-day state level seminar on conservation of life in land and water was organized by Durgapur Government College with Internal quality of assurance cell of Durgapur Government College. The invited speakers were Dr. Sourav Pal, Director of Estuarine and Coastal studies and Dr. Kuladeep Roy, Assistant Manager of WWF India, Kolkata Office.

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Dr. Sourav Pal challenged the very common notion of the use of zooplankton as good indicator of water bodies. According to him, this is a paradox and to prove this, he is currently doing his research in this topic. He also stated that according to his research some zooplankton species have ability to withstand in extreme environmental fluctuations and can stabilize their population within a short time period.

Government of West Bengal
Durgapur Government College
(Accredited by NAAC with "A" Grade)
J.N. Avenue, Durgapur, District-Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal, Pin-713214

One Day State Level Seminar on
'Conservation of Life in Land and Water'
January 5, 2023 11:00 hrs.

Invited Speakers

 Dr. Kuladeep Roy Assistant Manager WWF India	 Dr. Sourav Pal Director Estuarine and Coastal Studies Foundation
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Organized by
Department of Conservation Biology
In collaboration with
Internal Quality Assurance Cell



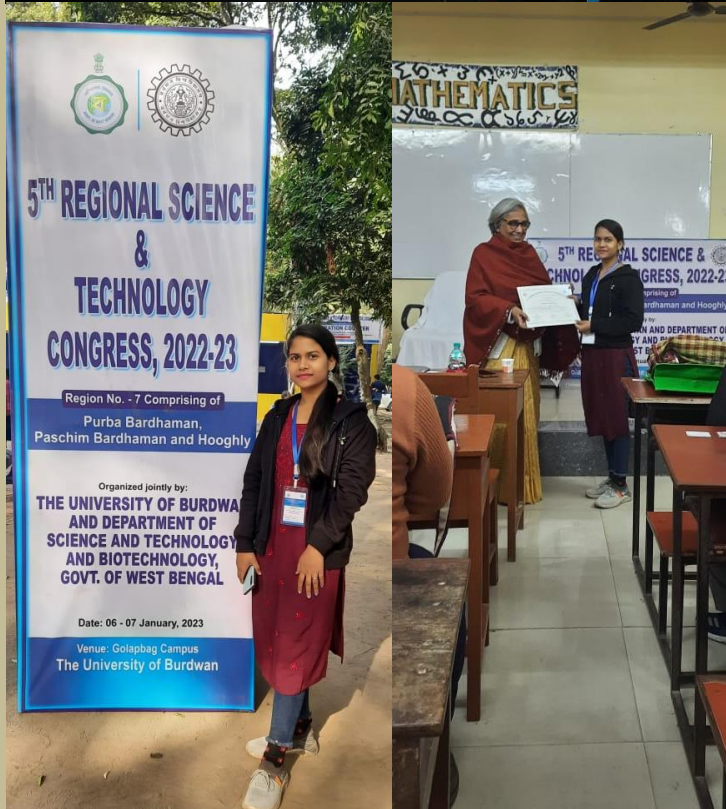
Dr. Kuladeep Roy presented the story of translocation of Hoolock gibbon, the only ape found in India. The State Forest Department, Arunachal Pradesh, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and Wildlife Trust of India jointly relocated these individuals from Dello, the Lower Dibang valley District to Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary. Students were very active during the interaction sessions and they enjoyed both the talks very much. They gained much knowledge and necessary boost up for research work in near future.

Contributor— Sudipta Seth, Third Semester





REGIONAL SCIENCE CONGRESS: STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



I am Anisha Sharma, a student of Semester-III of PG Department of Conservation Biology of Durgapur Government College. I attended and participated in the 5th Regional Science & Technology Congress (Region 7), 2022-23 [RSTC (R7), 2022-23] which was organised jointly by The University of Burdwan and Department of Science & Technology and Biotechnology, Government of West Bengal on January 06-07, 2023. The programme started with the presentation of Prof. Suman Kumar Dhar (Special Centre of Molecular Medicine, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi). Several participants joined the RSTC and given presentation on their respective topics and they were categorised by different departments. It was a very knowledgeable session and I came to know about the various research works that are being conducted to protect the mother earth. I also presented on a topic named “Assessment of Air Quality Index to Understand the Trend of the Ambient Air of Kolkata, West Bengal”. The whole performance was being judged by Prof. S. C. Santra (Former Professor of Environment Science, University of Kalyani) and Prof. Shibani Choudhary (Former Professor, Dept of Environmental Studies, Visva Bharti). At the end of two days a valedictory session was conducted and the best presenter was chosen and awarded from every department. The presentation programme was very informative and it was an honour for me to be a part of such a platform.





EDUCATIONAL EXCURSION TO INDIAN SUNDARBAN: AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE



We began our tour to Sundarban on 10th January 2023 to explore the mangrove forest. As we entered the area, we had been given a house boat to float from one island to other. That day we saw a new type of fish species named Mudskipper (*Boleophthalmus boddarti*). We also came in contact with a mother and a baby Jungle Cat (*Felis chaus*). That day we saw few types of plant species like Dhani Ghas (*Porteresia coarctata*) and Goran (*Ceriops decandra*).

Next day, 11th January 2023 we went to Pirkhali Island 1 to 6. There we saw various types of bird species such as Black Crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), Great Egret (*Ardea alba*), Lesser Adjutant Stork (*Leptoptilos javanicus*), White Throated Fantail (*Rhipidura albicollis*), Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*), Black-capped Kingfisher (*Halcyon pileata*), Oriental Magpie Robin (*Copsychus saularis*), Pond Heron (*Ardeola* sp.), Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*), Brown-Winged Kingfisher (*Pelargopsis amauroptera*), Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*), Collared Kingfisher (*Todiramphus chloris*), Crested Serpent Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*), Ashy Wood Swallow (*Artamus fuscus*), Green Bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*) etc. There we saw various types of plants species like Hetal (*Phoenix paludosa*) and Khalsi (*Aegiceras corniculatum*). Also, on that day we went to Dobanki camp. From the watch tower we observed a herd of

Spotted Deer (*Axis axis*), Wild Pig (*Sus scrofa*), Red Jungle Fowl (*Gallus gallus*), a Monitor Lizard (*Varanus indicus*), and a few River Terrapin (*Batagur baska*).



From the watch tower we also observed some Kankra tree (*Bruguiera gymnorhiza*). The captive breeding process of *Batagur baska* is running in Dobanki and Sajnekhali to conserve this endangered species. There also we heard the alarm call of spotted deer. But unfortunately, we could not see the main attraction of Sundarban the Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) but we noticed the pugmarks of tiger.

The day after, 12th January 2023, we glimpsed few Perigrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*), and a Saltwater Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*). We observed a few Acanthus tree (*Acanthus ilicifolius*).

On 13th January 2023 we returned to our home place, ending our happy and prosperous journey to Sundarban. We had a great time and beautiful memories that nature gave us.

*Contributors— Trina Nag,
Ipsita Giri,
Subhadeep Mukherjee,
Shreya Kesh,
Third Semester Students*





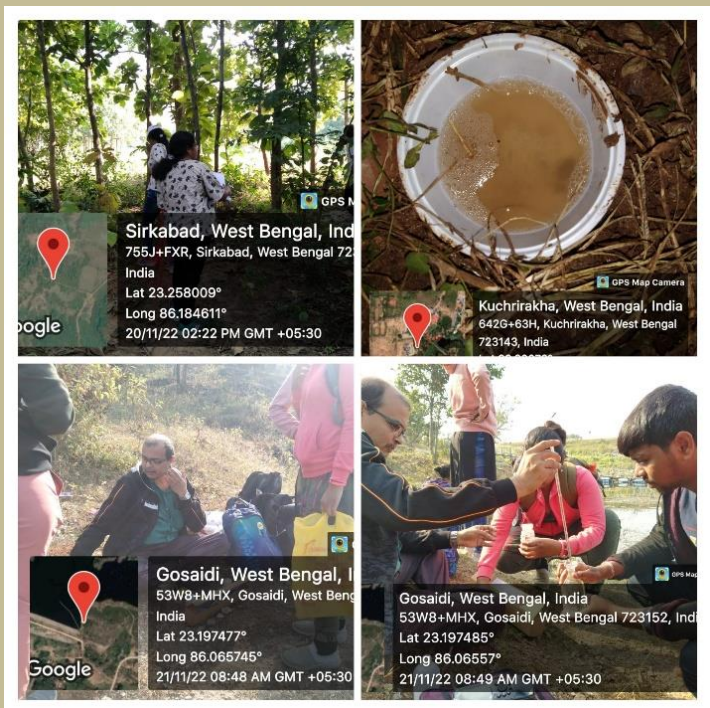
A SHORT FIELD TRIP TO AYODHYA HILLS

On 20/11/2022 from the gate of the Durgapur Government College our journey started with 8 students and 4 faculty members.

On the same day after reaching Ayodhya Hill range, at first we visited the Sirkabad Forest Range and collected soil samples, carried out quadrat sampling practical, did first-hand training on the camera trap and understood the analytical details of camera trap images. In the evening we visited marble lake and the Upper dam.

Second day i.e, 21/11/2022, we went to Turga falls and Turga dam, collected the water samples, carried out plankton collection, measured the Dissolved Oxygen, pH and conductivity of the water sample of Turga dam, and also collected the sediment soil.

After that we went to Matha Forest Range, collected the soil and scat samples, also did the



vegetation sampling. In the meantime, a Socio-economic survey was done by two groups of our classmates at the Matha local village. After that we visited Khoyrabera dam and also repeated the same water analysis practical. At the night we also set the pit falls and light trap.

Last day, i.e. 22/11/2022, we visited the famous waterfall in Ayodhya hill, Bamni falls and after that we returned to Durgapur in the evening. Thus ended our memorable and eventful journey.

Contributor— Aresh Ojha, Third Semester





ANDAL VEGETABLE MARKET SURVEY: A NEW EXPERIENCE

I am Zeenat Perween a regular student of PG Department of Conservation Biology, Durgapur Government College. As livelihood survey is a part of our syllabus so I have done it in my home town Andal Vegetable market. After conducting the survey I came to know that there are different types of vegetables, fruits, fishes found in affordable costs. Since I do my survey in winter season so there are many vegetables, I have seen namely Spinach, Cauliflower, Cabbage, Capsicum, Beans and many others. Apart from the vegetables I found different types of fishes which includes Rohu, Catla, Hilsa, Mourola, Bhola etc. The major part of the market was covered by the



vegetable vendors as it included fruits and all the vegetables. And this section was the most crowded one. Vegetables were brought near markets from trucks in heavy sacks. Then these heavy sacks of vegetables were carried by vendors on their back to the market as there were no vehicles allowed into the marketplace.

I spend a considerable amount of time in the market and it was a great experience there, I saw the hard work people have to do for their living. Thus, it bears a vital importance in the life of the people.

Moreover, the Government and the local authorities should try to improve it.

As a result of my survey, it was seen that the vendors of the market have access to the primary and secondary schools and Government health services. It was found that only the vendors having primary or secondary education are using dustbins for waste disposal. Most of the vendors are dependent on tube well for the need of water but some people also own pumps. The people there mostly own semi cemented house and the literacy level is also low. This might be because of the low income that they generate while working in the market. It can be concluded that the peak season of income is December to January. Some job opportunities in that area might boost up the economic condition of the vendors.





TRIP TO A WETLAND: NIL NIRJON-PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMOIR, BIRD AND PLANT LISTING

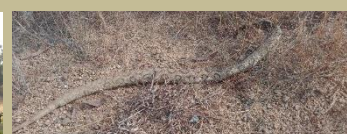
Date: 17th December 2022, Team: Students of 1st and 3rd Semester, Research scholars and faculties of Department

FLORA:

Palash - *Butea monosperma*
Tal palm-*Borassus flabellifer*
Date palm-*Phoenix dactylifera*
Neem- *Azadirachta indica*
Common guava-*Psidium guajava*
Mango- *Mangifera indica*
Manila tamarind-*Pithecellobium dulce*
Gulmohar- *Delonix regia*
Yellow flametree- *Peltophorum pterocarpum*
Nymphoides-*Nymphoides indica*
Blue lotus-*Nymphaea nouchali*
Marsilea-*Maesilea villosa*
Ludwigia-*Ludwigia adscendens*
Wild rice-*Oryza rufipogon*
Pondweed- *Potamogeton perfoliatus*
Limnophila heterophylla-*Limnophila aromatica*
Alligator weed-*Alternanthera philoxeroides*
Marsilea-*Marsilea quadrifolia*
Water spinach-*Ipomoea aquatic*
Cyperus-*Cyperus rotundus*
Gotu kola-*Centella asiatica*
Common water hyacinth-*Pontederia crassipes*
Sporobolus-*Sporobolus indicus*
Cyanotis-*Cyanotis axillaris*

BIRDS:

Bar-headed goose-*Anser indicus*
Common pochard-*Aythya perina*
Res crested pochard-*Nelta rufina*
Eurasian coot-*Fulica atra*
Purple swamphen-*Porphyrio porphyrio*
Wagtail-*Motacilla alba*
Cotton pygmy goose-*Nettapus coromandelianus*
Black drongo-*Dicrurus macrocercus*
Spotted dove-*Spilopelia chinensis*
Common crow-*Corvaus brachyrhychos*
Little swift-*Apus affinis*
Spoonbill-*Platalea leucorodia*
Africana jacana-*Actophilornis atricanus*
Collared kingfisher-*Todiramphus chloris*
Common kingfisher-*Alcedo atthis*



Contributors — Puja Chatterjee, Supriti Ghosh, Mou Karmakar, Priyanka Ghosh, Chirasmitta Das, Abakash Kumar Sah, Uttam Kumar Gorai,

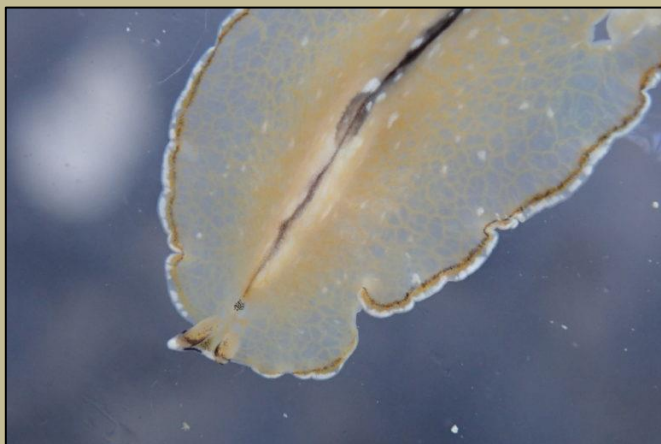
First Semester



News Corner Theme: Coastal and Marine Wildlife Conservation in India

NEW SPECIES OF FLATWORM FROM LAKSHADWEEP

A new species of marine flatworm has been discovered from the coral atolls of the Lakshadweep archipelago located in the Arabian Sea off the west coast of southern India in a biodiversity survey by researchers. This species belongs under the genus *Bulaceros*. This was first found in Agatti Island. The live flatworm is oval-shaped and features a translucent body with numerous visible branches of the brown gut, a dark black band in the middle, irregular white spots on the top and a margin of white spots.



Bulaceros newcannorum in a petri dish with the numerous gut branches visible.

Bulaceros newcannorum. This genus is characterized by knobbed pseudotentacles.

Photographs from the **Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE)**.

To know further about this news follow this link <https://india.mongabay.com/2021/04/new-marine-flatworm-from-rare-group-discovered-from-the-coral-atolls-of-lakshadweep/>



NEWLY DECLARED DUGONG CONSERVATION RESERVE TO PROTECT MARINE BIODIVERSITY

Tamil Nadu has declared India's first dugong conservation reserve in the Gulf of Mannar and the adjacent Palk Bay on the southeast coast of India. There are an estimated 200-250 dugongs left in the oceans, and among them, around 150 can be spotted in the Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar which has now become the most significant surviving natural habitat for dugongs globally. In an effort to protect the dugong, the Tamil Nadu government declared 500 sq. km of the biodiversity-rich waters in the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay, where the marine mammal is found, as the country's first dugong conservation reserve.



 Geoff Spiby

The dugong is listed as vulnerable in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, though some studies show its conservation status is highly variable across its range. To know more, please see <https://india.mongabay.com/list/tamil-nadu/>



Back Cover Photo: Rajib Biswas

ANNOUNCEMENT

- ◆ The theme of the next issue (August 2023) of Newsletter of Conservation Biology will be “**Conservation of Wildlife in Indian Hills**”. Contributions may please be submitted to **Dr. Moitreyee Chakrabarty**, Assistant Professor and Head, PG Department of Conservation Biology at Durgapur Government College, Durgapur (hodconb.dgc@gmail.com) by 1 August 2023.

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