

Preface

This book "**Biodiversity of Fishes in Arunachal Himalaya**" is a modest attempt to document the ichthyofaunal diversity of Arunachal Pradesh, India. We have a great pleasure in presenting this book documenting a total of 218 fish species in the state. These species belong to 99 genera, 35 families covering 13 orders of freshwater fishes. The book has been prepared by incorporating color photographs of live or freshly preserved specimens and images of "types" and "topotypes" of recently described species. This book provides the summary of order, generic characters, key to species, key diagnostic features, vernacular names, conservational status, and coloration of fresh or preserved specimens along with their distribution patterns in lotic and lentic waterbodies. The present document has been updated on the backdrop of specimens preserved and registered mainly in the Rajiv Gandhi University Museum of Fishes (RGUMF), Doimukh; Arunachal Pradesh Regional Centre, Zoological Survey of India (APRC-ZSI), Itanagar; Manipur University Museum of Fishes, Canchipur, Manipur; and Lakhimpur Girls' College Fish Museum, Lakhimpur, Assam.

During the past two decades, ichthyologists showed keen interest in the exploration of piscatorial resources and accordingly many new fish taxa have been discovered from the state till date. In fact, documentation process is continuing because many remote and poorly communicated areas are yet to be covered. Further, certain endemic fishes are gradually being exposed to the increasing threat of habitat shrinkages and anthropocentric developmental activities.

The taxonomic reassessment and classification used in this book has been followed in accordance with the recently amended taxonomic concept of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. The book covers all the food and ornamental fishes dwelling in topographical zones comprising cold waters in high altitudes, cold and warm waters in mid-altitude, and warm waters in low-altitude foothills. We believe that this book will provide an in-depth understanding of ichthyofaunal resources of this mountainous state of northeast India and may help in accurate assessments of fish wealth for enhancing conservation, utilization, management, and ultimately the productivity from such resources by the people of the state. Moreover, this work may pave the way to a new vista toward strengthening hill aquaculture through domestication of wild food and ornamental fishes for the welfare of mountain inhabitants.

Further, this book will serve as a comprehensive field guide for instant identification of freshwater fishes for the students, researchers, amateur naturalists, ichthyologists, and fisher folks in general.

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