



# **Ichthyofaunal Diversity and Conservation Status in the River Teesta, West Bengal, India**

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**Abstract:** A study on ichthyofaunal diversity was conducted in the River Teesta from March 2014 to February 2016 at two sapling sites. Objectives of the study were assessing the fish diversity and their conservation status. Sampling was done monthly interval with the help of professional fisherman. A total 140 fish species belonged to 11 orders, 31 families and 78 genera found from the River Teesta. Cyprinidae was the most dominant family. CPUE, number of ichthyofauna genera, Shannon diversity index, Margalef's richness index, evenness index and dominance index varied from 41 to 158 individual/100m<sup>2</sup>, 30 to 85, 3.34 to 4.32, 8.50 and 16.66, 0.901 to 0.992 and 0.014 to 0.057 respectively. 5% and 45.71 % fish species are under threatened category according to IUCN and CAMP and NBFGR conservation status respectively. Over and indiscriminate fishing, construction of dam and introduction of exotic fish species are major threat of ichthyofauna in the River Teesta.

**Keywords:** Ichthyofaunal diversity, Teesta, Shannon diversity index, Margalef's, Conservation status

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