

KUFOS researchers discover 21 new species of fish and 1 new species of shrimp –Discovery finds mention in Honourable Prime Minister of India’s talk in “Mann Ki Baat”

Understanding the diversity of life is one of the most fundamental questions in biology. Research team led by **Dr. Rajeev Raghavan** and his students has been leading the efforts to document freshwater biodiversity on the Indian subcontinent. In the last ten years, 22 new species of freshwater taxa (21 fish and 1 shrimp) including four new genera and two new families have been described by this team. 17 new species have been described since the year 2015. Some of these contributions have received international scientific attention and media coverage - for example, the discovery of a gondwanan relic and a ‘living fossil’, *Aenigmachanna gollum* (Zootaxa, 2019), and its subsequent recognition under a new family, Aenigmachannidae (Nature Scientific Reports, 2020); description of a unique blind subterranean shrimp (a new genus and species), *Eurindicus bhugarbha* (Zootaxa, 2018); description of a miniature subterranean loach (new species), *Pangio bhujia* (Zootaxa, 2019); recognition of a new family of subterranean catfish, Kryptoglanidae (Britz et al. Ichthyological Exploration of Freshwaters, 2016), and the discovery of the world’s largest cave fish, a yet-to-be described species of mahseer (Harries et al. Cave & Karst Science, 2019). **The discovery of the world’s largest cavefish was highlighted by the Honourable Prime Minister of India in his Mann Ki Baat.**

List of discoveries

Families

1. Kryptoglanidae (Teleostei: Siluriformes)
2. Aenigmachannidae (Teleostei: Anabantiformes)

Genera

1. Sahyadria (Teleostei: Cyprinidae)
2. Eurindicus (Crustacea: Euryrhynchidae)
3. Aenigmachanna (Teleostei: Channidae)
4. Waikhomia (Teleostei: Cyprinidae)

Species

1. *Pangio ammophila* (Teleostei: Cobitidae)
2. *Pseudolaguvia lapillicola* (Teleostei: Sisoridae)
3. *Balitora jalpalli* (Teleostei: Balitoridae)
4. *Pethia lutea* (Teleostei: Cyprinidae)
5. *Pethia longicauda* (Teleostei: Cyprinidae)
6. *Badis britzi* (Teleostei: Badidae)
7. *Amblyceps accari* (Teleostei: Amblycipitidae)
8. *Pethia sanjaymoluri* (Teleostei: Cyprinidae)
9. *Balitora chipkali* (Teleostei: Balitoridae)
10. *Dario neela* (Teleostei: Badidae)
11. *Pethia sahit* (Teleostei: Cyprinidae)
12. *Eurindicus bhugarbha* (Crustacea: Euryrhynchidae)
13. *Aenigmachanna gollum* (Teleostei: Channidae)
14. *Pangio bhujia* (Teleostei: Cobitidae)
15. *Channa rara* (Teleostei: Channidae)
16. *Dawkinsia apsara* (Teleostei: Cyprinidae)
17. *Dawkinsia austellus* (Teleostei: Cyprinidae)
18. *Dawkinsia crassa* (Teleostei: Cyprinidae)
19. *Waikhomia hira* (Teleostei: Cyprinidae)
20. *Rasbora adisi* (Teleostei: Cyprinidae)
21. *Indoreonectes telenganaensis* (Teleostei: Nemacheilidae)
22. *Dawkinsiauttara* (Teleostei: Cyprinidae)