

of the Brahmaputra and Ganga (Pritchard 1979, Smith 1931). Mertens (1969), also quoted by Khan and Mirza (1976), had recorded the species from lower Sind, in Pakistan. Moll and Vijaya (1986) reported it from the West Champaran district of northwestern Bihar, near the Nepal-Uttar Pradesh border. One specimen of *T. hurum* was collected by me from Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh and the material deposited at the National Zoological Collection, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

Trionyx hurum Gray

Material: 1 ex., collected from Lower Lake, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. 2 December, 1986. Coll. I. Das. ZSI Reg. No. 24408.

Measurements & Weight: Median straight

carapace length (bony shell & soft disc.) 138 mm, carapace width 112 mm, plastron length 106 mm, weight 234 gms.

Description: Carapace olive-green with four well defined ocelli. Head and forelimbs grey-black with large yellow patches; one yellow spot behind each eye, one across snout and one on top of each corner of the upper jaw. Numerous small yellow spots on the forehead and on the dorsal surface of the forelimbs, the undersurface of which has yellow patches. Hindlimbs grey with cream spots. Plastron cream. The present record suggests that *Trionyx hurum* may be found in other isolated north Indian freshwaters.

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DEPARTMENT OF LIMNOLOGY,
BHOPAL UNIVERSITY,
BHOPAL - 462 026,
October 6, 1987.

INDRANEIL DAS

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22. VEGETATION IN THE FOOD CONTENTS OF GARDEN
LIZARD (GIRGIT), *CALOTES VERSICOLOR* (DAUD.)
(REPTILIA: AGAMIDAE)

Calotes versicolor (Daud.) — the common garden lizard (girgit), is predominantly an insectivore (Bhatti *et al.* 1985). While assessing the food preference of this lizard, undigested or slightly digested pieces of small to fairly

large (0.001-15 mm) herbaceous plants were observed in the stomach contents of more than 25 individuals of different age and size. The vegetational components of stomach matter, on comparison with the flora of the areas, showed

following plants: shisham (*Dalbergia sissoo*), rose (*Rosa indica*), kikkar (*Acacia* sp.), cotton (*Gossypium* sp.), munj (*Saccharum munjo*), jawar (*Sorghum*), shahtoot (*Morus alba*), cyanodon (*Cyanodon* sp.), kochia (*Kochia* sp.), rat-ki-rani (*Sestrum nocturnum*), din-ka-raja (*S. alba*), etc. In one of the stomach of garden lizard minute bits of flower parts of wild aak (*Calotropis procera*), mako (*Solanum nigrum*), baigan (*Solanum melongena*), rose, chinese rose (*Althea rosea*), malvestrum (*Malvestrum* sp.), gulmohar, bougainvillaea, etc, were also noticed. In order to know the digestibility of vegetation, *Calotes* was fed in captivity, on the young and fresh

leaves of above noted species (plants); the lizards however showed neither orientation nor feeding preference for them. The plant components were apparently swallowed along with the prey species being captured. This perhaps occurs because of the peculiar habit of *Calotes*, especially the male, to sample all sorts of strange objects that come across their path.

Our studies on the garden lizard, *Calotes versicolor* (Daud.) revealed that individuals of this species do not eat plants and are not specialized for vegetative diet

The present study was conducted at Hansi (Haryana) and Bulandshar (U.P.), during May-June, 1983-84, and 1985 respectively.

ZOOLOGY DEPARTMENT,
I. P. COLLEGE,
BULANDSHAR, 203 001, INDIA,
July 25, 1986.

UJJAL SINGH BHATTI
S. KAUR BHATTI
SURJEET SINGH BHATTI

REFERENCE

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23. ON THE SYSTEMATIC STATUS OF *DANIO (DANIO) MENONI* BARMAN (PISCES: CYPRINIDAE)

Barman (1985) described a new cyprinid fish, *Danio (Danio) menoni*, collected from a stream near Mosampet village, Mahbubnagar district, Andhra Pradesh, based on three specimens (one holotype and two paratypes). He gave a key to the identification of the species of the genus *Danio (Danio)* and adjusted *Danio (Danio) menoni* in the key. While revising the fishes of the subfamily Rasborinae, the description and figures of *Danio (Danio) menoni* appeared peculiar to us and we were doubtful whether this species was a representative of Rasborinae. In order to confirm the

systematic status of this species, type material in the fish section of Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta was examined in detail; the type material of this species was identified by us as *Chela (Chela) laubuca* Hamilton belonging to the subfamily Cultrinae. The description and the figure of this species in the published account agrees exactly with the type material and also with *Chela (Chela) laubuca* Hamilton. Barman (loc. cit.) was misled to describe this material as a new species of the genus *Danio* because of his wrong placement of the material under another subfamily



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"VEGETATION IN THE FOOD CONTENTS OF GARDEN LIZARD GIRGIT
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