In an aquatic ecosystem, fishes serve as the best food for human beings, and they are one of the best indicators of the health of an aquatic ecosystem (Gorman and Karr, 1978). Nowadays, management of the aquatic habitats linked with fish diversity is of utmost importance, in this context extensive surveys are required to assess impacts of habitat alteration on the fish population (Dudgeon et al., 2006).

Rajasthan, the largest state in India, is well known for its varied topography and biodiversity. This state can be broadly divided into the following topographical regions viz.: western & north western region, known for its extreme arid climate & the inimitable Thar Desert; the semi-arid eastern region with sufficient vegetation cover is broadly drained by Chambal River & its tributaries. Chambal River basin includes the southern, eastern and north-eastern part of the state with tributaries such as Kalisindh, Bedach, Banas and Parbati. The southern part of the state consists of hilly and lush green landscape where water resource development in the form of large numbers of reservoirs is present. Mahi River basin with its main tributaries Jakham, Som and Anas drains the southern part of the state. The Mahi River originates in the western Vindhya Range, just south of Sardarpur and flows northward through Madhya Pradesh state. Spiraling northwest, it enters Rajasthan state and then turns southwest to flow through Gujarat state and finally empties into Arabian Sea at Bay of Khambhat after traversing distance of about 580-kms.

The Jakham stream is one of the main tributaries of Mahi River which initiates from a small village Jakhamia in Chhoti Sadri sub division of Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan. It mainly passes through the hilly region of Pratapgarh district in a south-western direction and joins river Som near Bilara village in Dungarpur district. A dam has been built across the river in Pratapgarh district known as Jakham dam. It is located in Anooppura village of Pratapgarh district. The dam is a main irrigation project of the area. Hence, the water level remains minimal most part of the year downstream to the dam and the stream barely flows. Present study was carried out in Jakham stream near to Chotti Sadari and Dhariawad region of Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS**

Fish collection was made predominantly by using cast nets. Hand, scoop and drag net were also used. The fishes were preserved in 5-10% formalin for further studies and were identified following Talwar and Jhingran (1991), Jayaram (1999) & www.fishbase.org. Nature of stream flow was decided according to the norms given by Gordon et al. (1992), whereas, nature of the stream bottom was accounted according to the criteria given by Armontrout (1999).

**OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Extensive and exclusive work on Ichthyofaunal diversity of Rajasthan has been carried out mainly by Hora and Mathur (1952), Datta and Majumdar (1970), Johal et al. (1993) and Mohan, et al. (2013). Southern and south eastern part of the state is surveyed for fish diversity mainly by Dubey and Mehra (1962), Sharma and Johal (1982), Sharma and Johal (1984), Gupta & Kulkshreshta (1985), Khatri, et al. (1986), Johal and Sharma (1986), Juyal and Chaudhary (2003); Sharma and Choudhury (2007). Dubey and Mehra (1962) recorded 71 species, whereas Banyal and Kumar (2015a) have documented 54 species of fish from Rajasthan portion of River Chambal.

Banyal and Kumar (2015 b, c and d) have also worked on the
Ichthyofauna of Mahi Riverine system. Almost negligible information is available on fish fauna of Jakham stream. Hence present work was undertaken to explore details of fish fauna in the stream.

Jakham is a perennial and spring fed stream. At the points of study the stream was having substantial amount of water. The bottom of the stream consisted of rocks, boulders, cobbles, gravels and sand. Run, riffles and pools were the main habitats observed in the stream.

Six species of fishes were recorded from the stream. Details of the fishes are as follows:

Class: Actinopterygii
Order: Cypriniformes
Family: Cyprinidae
Genus: Tor Gray
1. Tor khudree (Sykes, 1839)
Genus: Rasbora Bleeker
2. Rasbora daniconius (Hamilton, 1822)
Genus: Kuhl & van Hasselt
3. Crossocheilus latius (Hamilton, 1822)
Genus: Pethia Pethiyagoda et al.,
4. Pethia ticto (Hamilton, 1822)
Genus: Garra Hamilton
5. Garra lamta (Hamilton, 1822)
Genus: Labeo Cuvier
6. Labeo boggut (Sykes, 1839)

Since, present research work was carried out in the headwater of the stream and according to the River Continuum Concept (Vannote et al. 1980) variability and faunal diversity increases from head water to the mouth water in a stream. Hence, 6 cyprinid species recorded from the area of study. The status of most of the fishes found in this stream is common. These fishes with desirable morphological modifications viz. streamlined and dorsoventrally flattened body along with adhesive apparatus on ventral side near mouth as reported in case of Garra lamta and Crossocheilus latius are well adapted to flourish in this stream. Juveniles of Tor khudree (Sykes, 1839) found in this stream reflect its importance from fisheries point of view. This fish is endowed with strong power of locomotion to withstand fast flowing water in the streams. Tor khudree (Sykes, 1839) is a valuable fish liked by many people including anglers due to its flesh quality and fighting ability.

This fish migrates upstream for spawning; but, construction of dams, removal of bed material; illegal fishing during spawning period are some of the anthropogenic factors which are
accounting for dwindling populations of said fish in Mahi riverine system (Khatri et al.1986). Present observations confirm aforesaid observations. Hence, it is very important to conserve ecology of stream like Jakham to enhance population of said fish in Mahi riverine system.

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