ICHTHYO FAUNAL DIVERSITY IN JASWANT SAGAR RESERVOIR NEAR BILARA REGION OF JODHPUR DISTRICT, RAJASTHAN

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Fish samples were collected from Jaswant Sagar reservoir during 2012 to assess its status from the ichthyofaunal diversity point of view. 5 genera of fishes were reported from this reservoir. Cypriniformes was the dominant order (3 genera) followed by Siluriformes (2 genera).

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Jaswant Sagar reservoir is located at 26.22°N 73.68°E was constructed in 1899 by Maharaja Jaswant Singh of Jodhpur in Pichiyak village between Bilara and Bhavi of Jodhpur district. It is one of the largest artificial lakes in India, and can irrigate more than 12,000 acres (49 km2). This reservoir was constructed to store water for civil supply. Details regarding fish diversity of this reservoir are lacking. Present study was attempted to assess ichthyofaunal diversity of this reservoir.

MATERIALS AND METHODS
Fishes were collected mainly by using cast & Gillnets. Hand net, scoop net, drag net and baited hooks were also used. The fishes were also collected from fishermen’s catch in the vicinity of Jaswant Sagar reservoir. The fishes were preserved in 10% formalin for further studies. The fishes were identified following standard references

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS
The 43.38 m high Jaswant Sagar Dam is only one of the 100 large dams (of the total population of over 4600 large dams in India) that are already more than 100 years old. This Dam was constructed to retain water from the river Luni and its Catchment area. The reservoir under report retains water depending upon the rainfall. It was found that due to less amount of water it harbours less fish diversity. 5 genera of fishes were reported from this reservoir. Cypriniformes was the dominating order of fishes (3 genera) followed by Siluriformes (2 genera). The water level in the reservoir fluctuates remarkably. It retains little quantity of water most part of the year. During rainy season it consists of fair amount of water. Fish diversity is available in patches during dearth period. Among cyprinids *Cyprinus carpio* (Linnaeus), *Catla catla* (Hamilton) and *Labeo rohita* (Hamilton) were dominant in fish catch whereas *Sperata seenghala* (Hamilton) was dominant among catfishes. List of the fishes with classification is given below:

Class: Actinopterygii
Order: Cypriniformes
Family: Cyprinidae
1. *Catla catla* (Hamilton)
2. *Labeo rohita* (Hamilton)
3. *Cyprinus carpio* (Linnaeus)

Order: Siluriformes
Family: Bagridae
4. *Sperata seenghala* (Sykes)
5. *Mystus bleekeri* (Day)

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