A CHECKLIST OF FISH AND CRUSTACEANS OF THE SOUTH-WEST COAST OF BANGLADESH

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Abstract: The study was based on the preparation of a list of fish and crustacean species available in the South-west coastal areas of Bangladesh and aimed at establishing a museum at the Fisheries and Marine Resource Technology (FMRT) Discipline. Such a museum in the Discipline was thought to be useful for the teachers, students and researchers in the areas of fisheries management and fish culture. The collections were made from all over the places of rural and urban markets of Khulna, Bagerhat and Satkhira; from fish landing ghats and from fishermen boats of Mongla, Dacope and Khulna. A list of 137 species of fish and belonging to 16 Orders, 69 Families and 106 Genera was produced. The crustaceans were 9 Species belonging to the single Order, Decapoda consisting of 4 Families and 6 Genera. The specimens were identified using standard keys, preserved in 10% formalin, labeled and shelved in the museum of FMRT Discipline. The list, however, was not an exhaustive one. Because the collection could not be made from the offshore areas, it was not possible to include many of the rare and unconventional species of fish and crustaceans from the offshore waters. The museum established, it is hoped, will play a due role in fisheries teaching and research.

Key words: Fish, Crustacean, Taxonomy, Sundarbans, Bangladesh

Introduction

The South–West region of the country has come out as an important fisheries area in the country. The brackish water shrimp cultivation in the recent years has experienced a rapid increase in the coastal bheries of the area. A total of about 1, 30, 000 ha coastal land is being used for shrimp cultivation. The world famous mangrove forest – the Sundarbans is located in this area. The Sundarbans supports a huge breeding and nursery ground of a large group of offshore and deep-sea fin fishes and crustaceans. A huge scale of resource depletion takes place every year in the estuarine waters in the area in the form of larvae and juveniles of the fin fishes and crustaceans during the collection of *Penaeus monodon* larvae. Chaudhury (1990) reported that there is a loss of up to 73% other shrimp larvae and 24% fish larvae for collection of 3% bagda fry through the present system of shrimp seed collection from the Sundarbans mangrove area.

The information on the diversity of fish and crustaceans in the coastal waters of the country is scarce. Reports on the species availability in the Sundarban waters are available from a few studies so far made (Acharya and Kamal, 1994; Seidensticker and Hai, 1978; and Anon, 1994 and Bernacsek, 2000). Biodiversity in the form of both species diversity and genetic diversity is a broad reflection of the geographical/ecological diversity of an area. It is said that heterogeneity in the environment is reflected in the variable form of organisms. Thus the more heterogeneous the...
ecological conditions are, more variable the populations are (Lewontin, 1957 and Dobzhansky et al., 1977) The fish and crustacean species available in the south-west coastal areas are diverse ones and this is clearly evident from the unique heterogeneity of the area and the mangrove Sundarbans is definitely a prime determinant. Bangladesh is a land of waters. It abounds with a large variety of species. Rahman (1989) reported 260 species of fish from Bangladesh waters. His list does not include species from the estuarine and offshore waters excepting a few that often enter in the freshwater rivers. He suggested the need for careful collection and systematic study of the species available in the estuarine waters. Shah (2003) stressed the necessity for research on the fishery resources identification of the Sundarbans. The Fisheries and Marine Resource Technology Discipline of University has linkages with the out field activities targeted for management and conservation of the resources. It does not have an informative museum of species of fish and crustacean available in this region. For sustainable management and conservation of resources, a knowledge on the diversity of the fish and crustaceans available in the waters is utmost important.

The present study was aimed at establishing a museum of the species of fish and shellfish available in the region. Collection of specimens was made from all over the places of rural and urban markets of Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat; from fish landing ghats and from fishermen boats from Mongla, Dacope and Khulna. The specimens were identified using standard identification keys, labeled, preserved in 10% formalin and shelved in the museum of the Fisheries and Marine Resource Technology Discipline. A total of 137 species of fin fish 9 species of crustaceans belonging to 17 Orders, 73 Families and 112 Genera were identified from the collection. The museum established, it is expected, would serve the important purpose of education and research in fisheries, in the areas of the country.

**Materials and Methods**

The study was carried out over a period of six months from August, 2002 to January, 2003. The collection was made from the coastal districts of Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat. Several visits were made to the fish markets and fish landing centers of Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat for collection of specimen. The specimen were carefully packed in carrier box and brought to the laboratory for identification and preservation. They were identified with the help of keys as provided by Rahman (1989), Munro (2000) and FishBase (2007). They were kept in glass jars, with 10% formalin, properly labeled with number and shelved in the museum. To prevent the specimen from getting bended in the jar, the bigger specimens were rested on a strip of glass and fixed with a thread. Also for better preservation glycerin was added with the formalin to neutralize it.

**Results**

The study on the collection and identification resulted with a list of 137 species of fin fish belonging to 16 Orders, 71 Families and 106 Genera. The crustaceans were of 9 species under a single Order, 4 Families, and 6 Genera. Classification was done after FishBase (2007), Munro (2000) and Rahman (1989). The following is the list of the specimens. The species have been preserved with mainly single specimen and conserved in the museum of FMRT Discipline.
Fish

Class: Elasmobranchii
Subclass: Selachii
Order: Rajiformes
Family: Rhinobatidae
Genus: Rhinobatos
   Species: Rhinobatos granulatus (Cuvier, 1829)
   Local name: Pitambori
Genus: Rhynchobatus
   Species: Rhynchobatus djiddensis (Forsskal, 1775)
   Local name: Dagi pitambori

Family: Trygonidae
Genus: Gymnura
   Species: Gymnura poecilura (Shaw, 1804)
   Local name: Projapati ray
Genus: Dasyatis
   Species: Dasyatis zuiei (Muller and Henle, 1841)
   Local name: Sapla pata

Order: Lamniformes
Family: Carcharinidae
Genus: Scoliodon
   Species: Scoliodon laticaudus (Muller and Henle, 1841)
   Local name: Hangor
   Species: Rhizoprionodon acutus (Rüppell, 1837)
   Local name: Hangor

Family: Torpedinidae
Genus: Narcine
   Species: Narcine brunnea (Annandale, 1909)
   English name: Brown electric ray

Order: Torpediniformes
Family: Torpedinidae
Genus: Allenbatrachus
   Species: Allenbatrachus grunniens
   English name: grunting toadfish
   Local name: Gongonia

Class: Teleostomi
Subclass: Actinopterygii
Order: Pleuronectiformes
Family: Cynoglossidae
Genus: Paraplagusia
   Species: Paraplagusia bilineata (Bloch, 1787)
   English name: Doublelined tongue sole
   Local name: kukur jeeb

Order: Symbranchiformes
Family: Symbranchidae
Genus: Monopterus
   Species: Monopterus cuchia (Hamilton, 1822)
   English name: Cuchia
   Local name: Kucha

Order: Anguilliformes
Family: Muraenidae
Genus: Gymnothorax
   Species: Gymnothorax thyrsoideus (Richardson, 1845)
   English Name: Greyface Moray

Family: Moringuidae
Genus: Moringua
   Species: Moringua raitaboura (Hamilton, 1822)
   English Name: Purple Spaghetti Eel
   Local name: Rata boura
Order: Tetradontiformes
Family: Legocephalidae
Genus: Lagocephalus
Species: Lagocephalus lunaris (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)
English Name: Green Rough-backed Puffer

Family: Tetraodontidae
Genus: Tetraodon
Species: Tetraodon cutcutia (Hamilton, 1822)
English Name: Ocellated Pufferfish
Local name: Tepa

Order: Beloniformes
Family: Belonidae
Genus: Strongylura
Species: Strongylura Strongylura (van Hasselt, 1823)
Local name: Fota leja Kakila
Genus: Strongylura
Species: Strongylura leiura (Bleeker, 1850)

Family: Hemirhamphidae
Genus: Hyporhamphus
Species: Hyporhamphus quoyi (Valenciennes, 1847)
Local name: Ek thuta
Genus: Hyporhamphus
Species: Hyporhamphus xanthopterus (Valenciennes, 1847)
Local name: Ek thuta

Order: Cyprinodontiformes
Family: Cyprinodontidae
Genus: Aplocheilus
Species: Aplocheilus panchax (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Kanpona, Tinchouka

Order: Channiformes
Family: Channidae
Genus: Channa
Species: Channa punctata (Bloch, 1793)
Local name: Taki
Species: Channa orientalis (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)
Local name: Cheng, Gachua
Species: Channa striata (Bloch, 1793)
Local name: Shol
Species: Channa barca (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Tilashol, Pipla
Species: Channa marulius (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Gozar

Order: Scopeleiformes
Family: Harpodontidae
Genus: Harpodon
Species: Harpodon nehereus (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Loitta

Family: Engraulidae
Genus: Thryssa
Species: Thryssa hamiltonii (Grey, 1835)

Order: Mugiliformes
Family: Mugilidae
Genus: Mugil
Species: Mugil cephalus (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Bhangon
Genus: Liza
Species: Liza parsia (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Parshe
Genus: Rhinomugil
Species: Rhinomugil corsula (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Karsula

Order: Cypriniformes
Suborder: Cyprinoidei
Family: Cyprinidae
Sub-family: Rasborinae
Genus: *Esomus*
Species: *Esomus danricus* (Hamilton, 1822)
Sub-family: Cyprininae
Genus: *Amblyparyngodon*
Species: *Amblyparyngodon mola* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Mola, Maya
Genus: *Puntius*
Species: *Puntius sophore* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Pur, jatput, vedipuri
Species: *Puntius sarana* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Sar puti
Species: *Puntius terio* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Teri punti
Genus: *Labeo*
Species: *Labeo rohita* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Rohu
Species: *Labeo bata* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Bata
Species: *Labeo dero* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Bata
Species: *Labeo calbasu* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Kalibaus
Species: *Labeo boga* (Hamilton, 1822)
Species: *Labeo pungusia* (Hamilton, 1822)
Genus: *Cirrhinus*
Species: *Cirrhinus cirrhosus* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Mrigal
Species: *Labeo ariza* (Hamilton, 1807)
Local name- Raik Bata, Bhangon bata
Genus: *Catla*
Species: *Catla catla* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Catla
Family: Cobitidae
Genus: *Lepidocephalichthys*
Species: *Lepidocephalichthys guntia* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Gutum
Species: *Lepidocephalichthys berndmorei* (Blyth, 1860)
Local name: Puiya
Genus: *Nemachilus*
Species: *Nemachilus zonlternans* (Blyth, 1860)
Local name: Balichata
Genus: *Batia*
Species: *Batia Dario* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Rani
Sub-Order: Siluroidei
Family: Clarididae
Genus: *Clarias*
Species: *Clarias batrachus* (Linnaeus, 1758)
Local name: Magur
Family: Siluridae
Genus: *Wallago*
Species: *Wallago attu* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)
Local name: Boal
Genus: *Ompok*
Species: *Ompok bimaculatus* (Bloch, 1794)
Local name: Kani pabda.
Species: *Ompok pabda* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: pabda
Family: Heteropneustidae
Genus: *Heteropneustes*
Species: *Heteropneustes fossilis* (Bloch, 1794)
Local name: Shingi

Family: Plotosidae
Genus: *Plotosus*
Species: *Plotosus canius* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Gang magur
Species: *Plotosus lineatus* (Bloch, 1794)

Genus: *Plotosus canius* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name:  Gang magur

Genus: *Plotosus lineatus* (Bloch, 1794)
Local name: Gang magur

Species: *Plotosus lineatus* (Bloch, 1794)
Local name: Gang magur

Family: Schilbeidae
Genus: *Pseudeutropius*
Species: *Pseudeutropius atherinoides* (Bloch, 1794)
Local name: Batasi
Genus: *Ailia*
Species: *Ailia coila* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Kajuli, Baspata
Genus: *Silonia*
Species: *Silonia silondia* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Cylinder, Shillong
Genus: *Clupisoma*
Species: *Clupisoma garua* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Gaura

Genus: *Plotosus canius* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Gang magur

Family: Bagridae
Genus: *Sperata*
Species: *Sperata aor* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Ayre
Species: *Mystus vittatus* (Bloch, 1794)
Local name: Tangra
Species: *Mystus cavasius* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Ghulsa tangra
Species: *Mystus gulo* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Nuna tengra

Genus: *Ailia coila* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Kajuli, Baspata

Genus: *Silonia silondia* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Cylinder, Shillong

Genus: *Clupisoma garua* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Gaura

Family: Sisoridae
Genus: *Bagarius*
Species: *Bagarius bagarius* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Baghair

Family: Tachysuridae
Genus: *Batrachocephalus*
Species: *Batrachocephalus mino* (Hamilton, 1822)
Genus: *Arius*
Species: *Arius platystomus* (Day, 1877)
Local name: Med mach
Species: *Arius jella* (Day, 1877)
Genus: *Osteogeniosus*
Species: *Osteogeniosus militaris* (Hamilton, 1822)

Order: Clupeiformes
Family: Notopteridae
Genus: *Chital*
Species: *Chital chitala* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Chital
Species: *Notopterus notopterus* (Pallas, 1769)
Local name: Foli

Family: Clupeidae
Genus: *Gonialosa*
Species: *Gonialosa manminna* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Goni chapila
Genus: *Gudusia*
Species: *Gudusia chapra* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Khaira, Chapila
Genus: *Tenualosa*
Species: *Tenualosa ilisha* (Hamilton, 1822)
English name: Ilish
Genus: *Opisthosterus*
Species: *Opisthopterus tardoore* (Swainson, 1839)
English name: Indian shad

Family: Chirocentridae
Genus: *Chirocentrus*
Species: *Chirocentrus dorab* (Forsskal, 1775)
Local name: Karati chala

Family: Engraulidae
Genus: *Coilia*
Species: *Coilia ramcarati* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Olua, Megha olua

Order: Perciformes
Sub-order: Anabantoidei
Family: Anabantidae
Genus: *Colisa*
Species: *Colisa fasciata* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)
Local name: Khalisha
Species: *Colisa lalia* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Lal Khalisa
Genus: *Anabas*
Species: *Anabas testudineus* (Bloch, 1792)
Local name: Koi

Sub-order: Mastacembeloidei
Family: Mastacembelidae
Genus: *Mastacembelus*
Species: *Mastacembelus armatus* (Lacepede, 1800)
Local name: Sal bain
Genus: *Macronathus*
Species: *Macronathus pancerlus* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Guchi bain
Species: *Macronathus aculeatus* (Bloch, 1786)
Local name: Tara bain

Sub-order: Polynemoidei
Family: Polynemidae
Genus: *Polynemus*
Species: *Leptomelanosoma indicum* (Shaw, 1804)
Local name: Tairol
Species: *Polynemus paradiseus* (Linnaeus, 1758)
Local name: Tapasi, Muni, Rishi
Genus: *Eleutheronema*
Species: *Eleutheronema tetradactylum*
Local name: Tailla

Family: Serranidae
Genus: *Epinephelus*
Species: Epinephelus malabaricus (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)
English Name: Malabar grouper
Species: *Epinephelus coioides* (Hamilton, 1822)
English Name: Orange-spotted grouper
Local name: Komlafota bale

Sub-order: Gobioidae
Family: Taenioididae
Genus: *Trypauchen*
Species: *Trypauchen vagina* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)
Local name: Sada chewa
Genus: *Taenioides*
Species: *Taenioides buchanani* (Day, 1873)
English Name: Burmese gobyeel
Local name: Raja chewa

Family: Gobiidae
Genus: *Paragobiodon*
Species: *Paragobiodon echinocephalus* (Rüppell, 1830)
English Name: Redhead goby
Local name: Bhut bele, Nondi bele
Shah, M.S. and Hossain, M.H. 2006. A checklist of fish and crustaceans of the south-west coast of Bangladesh. Khulna University Studies, Special Issue (1st Research Cell Conference): 113-124.

Genus: Brachygobius
Species: Brachygobius nunus (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Nuna bele

Genus: Apocryptes
Species: Apocryptes bato(Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Gula/Dogri/Chiring

Genus: Gobiopsis
Species: Gobiopsis macrostoma (Steindachner, 1860)
English Name: Longjaw goby
Local name: Bele

Genus: Oplopomus
Species: Oplopomus alopomus (Valenciennes, 1837)
English Name: Spinecheek goby
Local name: Sona bele

Genus: Glossogobius
Species: Glossogobius giuris (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Bele

Sub-order: Percoidei
Family: Sillaginidae
Genus: Sillaginopsis
Species: Sillaginopsis panijus (Hamilton, 1822)
English Name: Flathead sillago
Local name: Tular dandi

Family: Scatophagidae
Genus: Scatophagus
Species: Scatophagus argus (Linnaeus, 1766)
English Name: Spotted scat
Local name: Bishtara

Family: Teraponidae
Genus: Terapon
Species: Terapon jarbua (Forsskål, 1775)
English Name: Jarbua terapon

Family: Nandidae
Genus: Nandas
Species: Nandas nanda (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Royna, Bheda, Meni
Family: Centropomidae

Genus: Lates
Species: Lates calcarifer (Bloch, 1790)
English Name: Barramundi
Local name: Bhetki

Family: Centropomidae
Genus: Chanda
Species: Chanda nama (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Nama chanda
Species: Chanda baculis (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Chanda
Species: Chanda ranga (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Chanda

Family: Carangidae
Genus: Carangoides
Species: Carangoides malabaricus (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)
English Name: Malabar trevally

Genus: Chorinemus
Species: Scomberoides lysan (Forsskål, 1775)
English Name: Doublespotted queenfish

Genus: Atropus
Species: Atropus atropos (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)
English Name: Cleftbelly trevally
Local name: Kuweh

Genus: Alepes
Species: *Alepes melanoptera* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Dora Mouri

Family: Carangidae
Genus: *Scomberoides*
Species: *Scomberoides commersonnianus* (Lacepède, 1801)
English name: Talang queenfish

Family: Pomadasyidae
Genus: *Pomadasys*
Species: *Pomadasys maculatus* (Bloch, 1793)
English Name: Saddle grunt

Family: Lutianidae
Genus: *Lutianus*
Species: *Lutianus sanguineus* (Cuvier, 1828)
English Name: Humphead snapper
Species: *Lutianus johni* (Bloch, 1792)
Local name: Patina

Family: Gerridae
Genus: *Pentaprion*
Species: *Pentaprion longimanus* (Cantor, 1849)
English name: Longfin mojarra

Family: Gerridae
Genus: *Pertica*
Species: *Pertica filamentosa* (Cuvier, 1828)

Family: Mullidae
Genus: *Upeneus*
Species: *Upeneus molucensis* (Bleeker, 1855)
Species: *Upeneus vitatus* (Forsskål, 1775)
English name: Yellowstriped goatfish

Family: Scianidae
Genus: *Otolithes*
Species: *Pterotolithus maculatus* (Cuvier, 1830)
Local name: Guti poa
Genus: *Pennahia*
Species: *Pennahia argentata* (Houttuyn, 1782)
Local name: Vola
Genus: *Johnius*
Species: *Johnius dussumieri* (Cuvier, 1830)
English Name: Sin croaker

Family: Leiognathidae
Genus: *Leiognathus*
Species: *Leiognathus bindus* (Valenciennes, 1835)
English Name: Orangefin ponyfish
Local name: Comla chanda

Family: Taenioididae
Genus: *Odontamblyopus*
Species: *Odontamblyopus rubicundus* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Lal chewa

Family: Chichlidae
Genus: *Oreochromis*
Species: *Oreochromis niloticus* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Tilapia

Family: Toxotidae
Genus: *Toxotes*
Species: *Toxotes chatareus* (Hamilton, 1822)
Local name: Putki
Family: Menidae
Genus: Mene
   Species: Mene maculata (Bloch & Schneider, 1801)
   Local name: Mini mach

Family: Sparidae
Genus: Rhabdosargus
   Species: Rhabdosargus sarba (Forsskal, 1775)

Family: Pentapodidae
Genus: Argyrops
   Species: Argyrops spinifer (Forsskal, 1775)
   Local name: Lal datina

Family: Drepanidae
Genus: Drepane
   Species: Drepane punctata (Linnaeus, 1758)
   Local name: Pan mach

Family: Plectorhynchidae
Genus: Diagramma
   Species: Diagramma pictum (Thunberg, 1792)

Family: Lobotidae
Genus: Datnoides
   Species: Datnoides polota (Hamilton, 1822)

Suborder: Scombroidae
Family: Scombridae
Genus: Rastrelliger
   Species: Rastrelliger kanagurta (Cuvier, 1816)
   English name: Rake gilled mackerel

Family: Thunnidae
Genus: Thunnus
   Species: Thunnus tonggol (Bleeker, 1851)

Suborder: Stromatoidei
Family: Stromatateidae
Genus: Parastromateus
   Species: Parastromateus niger (Bloch, 1795)
   Local name: Maissa chanda

Genus: Pampus
   Species: Pampus chinensis (Euphrasen, 1788)
   Local name: Rup Chanda
   Species: Pampus argenteus (Euphrasen, 1788)
   Local name: Foli chanda

Suborder: Trichiuroidei
Family – Trichiuridae
Genus: Trichiurus
   Species: Trichiurus lepturus (Linnaeus, 1758)
   Local name: Churi

Suborder: Tetrodontoidei
Family: Diodontidae
Genus: Diodon
   Species: Diodon hystrix (Linnaeus, 1758)
   English name: Spotted porcupine fish

Suborder: Cottoidei
Family: Platycephalidae
Genus: Thysanophrys
   Species: Thysanophrys indicus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Order: Decapoda
Family: Penaeidae
Genus: Penaeus
   Species: Penaeus monodon
   Local name: Bagda

Genus: Metapenaeus
   Species: Metapenaeus brevicornis
English name: Bird shrimp
Species: *Metapenaeus monoceros*

Family: Palaemonidae
Genus: *Macrobrachium*
Species: *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* (De man)
Local name: Golda chingri
Species: *Macrobrachium rude*
Local name: Golda chingri
Species: *Macrobrachium dolichodactylus*
Local name: Brammani chingri

Family – Scyllaridae
Genus: *Panulirus*
Species: *Panulirus ornatus* (Fabricus)
English name - Yellow ring spiny lobster

Genus: *Thenus*
Species: *Thenus orientalis*
English name: Sand lobster

Family: Portunidae
Genus: *Scylla*
Species: *Scylla olivasceus*
English Name: Mud Crab
Local name: Kankra

Discussion

Identification of the specimen was done after Rahman (1989), Munro (2000) and FishBase (2007). From the foregoing list of the species, it is seen that the Order Perciformes was most prominent being represented with a total of 62 species. Next to this was the Cypriniformes with 37 species; the other Orders were Clupeiformes with 8 species, Channiformes with 5 species, Beloniformes and Rajiformes each with 4 species and Lamniformes and Mugiliformes each with 3 species. The Decapoda crustacean was represented with 9 species. The available information suggests that the species under the Order Perciformes are majority of estuarine and marine dwellers and since the collections were made from the coastal waters of greater Khulna region, their number was thus more represented in the study. The Order Cypriniformes, though, mainly a freshwater one, their presence in the present collection made from the fresh and semi saline waters of the region is also noteworthy.

There was a drawback in the collection process; it was not possible to make collection from the offshore/marine waters of the region, thus many of the unconventional species from the offshore waters could not be included in the collection. The fishermen catching fish from the offshore waters do not bring the species in the inland markets either; rather they discard them in the sea. Thus, if the unconventional species could be obtained, the list could have been bigger. However, because of this drawback, the number of species reported in this study could not be as high as the number of species reported by Seidensticker and Hai (1978), Anon (1974) or Bernacsek (2000) from the Sundarbans waters. Barnacsek was involved in the Sundarbans Biodiversity Conservation project. The project Head Quarter though was in Khulna, there was no available information about preservation and establishment of a museum of specimen collected by the project from the Sundarbans waters, nor were there any concerted efforts on preservation of fish or crustaceans of Sundarbans waters by anybody in the country. So, this was by far the first ever effort to establish a museum of the specimens of fish and crustaceans available in the area as a whole.
Conclusion

The aim of the study was to collect, identify and to develop a museum of species of fish and crustaceans available in the south-west coastal region the country. The area is rich in ecological diversity because of the presence of the Sundarbans mangrove forest. Fisheries and Marine Resource Technology Discipline in Khulna University undertakes fisheries education and research. To be able to play a role in the study of biology and systematics of the fisheries organisms, the Discipline should possess an informative museum of the species. The collection, though, had drawback in itself, resulted a list of 137 species of fin fish and 9 species of shrimp and prawn belonging to 17 Orders, 73 Families and 112 Genera. The specimen were preserved, labeled and shelved in a museum of Fisheries and Marine Resource Technology Discipline. It is hoped that the museum would play the expected role in fisheries education and research in the country.

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