

Research Article

First record two species of Tor Mahseer in the Indravati River system of Godavari Basin of Eastern Ghats in Odisha, India, and Conservation Strategies

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ABSTRACT

Despite advanced genetic tools, morphological taxonomy remains crucial for managing fish genetic resources. Mahseer, a prized fish known as the "King of Indian Aquatic Systems," faces taxonomic challenges due to incomplete morphological descriptions. Ambiguities arise in Mahseer taxonomy due to the occurrence of a few holotypes, inconspicuous morphological distinctions in them, and differences in recognizing specific morphological characters. This study collected Mahseer specimens from the Indravati River (a tributary of the Godavari River system) in Odisha and analysed morphometric and meristic characteristics using Least Discriminant Analysis (LDA). The study came out with records of two Tor Mahseer species, *Tor putitora* and *Tor tor*, in the region, with *Tor putitora* being a new record for the entire Godavari Basin in India. Strategies for the conservation of Mahseers and suggestions for conservation awareness among the local population have been discussed. Further, a comprehensive investigation on Mahseer diversity and distribution in rivers of southern Odisha has been recommended.

Key words: *Tor tor*, *Tor putitora*, Koraput, morphometric parameters, Southern Odisha

