

The Status of Marine Polychaete Research in India

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Introduction

The Indian coastline is approximately 8118 km long, with 14 major, 44 medium & 162 minor rivers and delta tributaries. Polymetallic nodules, placers, methane hydrates, core crusts and offshore oil are extracted from the near shore to the deep sea. Approximately 7.13 million tons of biomass are harvested every year by commercial and local fisheries. Overall marine biodiversity is high, currently thought to be 15,042 species (Wafar et al., 2011).

History Of Major Polychaete Research in India 1851 - 1930

- Schmarda (1851): First descriptions of new species from India.
- Ceylon Polychaeta: Grube (1874), Michaelsen (1892) and Augener (1920)
- Report on the Polychaeta of the Gulf of Manaar: Willey (1905)
- Fauna of Krusadai Island: Souththorn (1911), Gravely. (1921) and Fauvel
- Fauna of Karachi : Bindra (1927)

Fauvel's Contribution to Indian Polychaete

- Well-known French polychaetologist
- Major Contribution: The Fauna of India Including Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma and Malaya, Vol I & II (1953).
- Part of the series – The Fauna of India (Initially: The Fauna of British India) (Govt. of India)
- Reported 304 species from India
- Remains the most comprehensive work on polychaetes of India.



Prof. Dr. Pierre Louis André Fauvel
Professeur de Zoologie à l'Université catholique d'Angers, France.



Olga Hartman

Olga Hartman: 1st International Indian Ocean Expedition

- Olga Hartman (1974, parts I & II): Indian Ocean
- Part I: Taxonomy, with 244 taxa of which 116 were new to the area and 16 were newly described.
- Part II, a catalogue of species and bibliography, listed 883 species in 315 genera and 59 families

Role of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) 1965-1990

- Polychaete taxonomic study largely neglected
- Played an important role during the 1990's
- Studies focused on general biodiversity and ecological research.
- 594 Publications
- 18 publications exclusively on polychaetes

Current Research Groups

- CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography, Goa
- Centre for Marine Living Resources, Kerala
- Cochin University, Kerala
- Andhra University

Role of CSIR-NIO

- *bioSearch*- a database for the biodiversity information of India.
- Free open access to encourage regional & international scientific initiatives.
- Ecology samples carried out from intertidal to deep-Sea.

Future Plans

- National & International Collaboration
- Update of monographs
- Improve the *bioSearch* database by adding molecular information
- GIS data to assess the effects of climate change along the Indian Subcontinent.

