

Project Update: December 2011

Fourteen species of fishes are reported in the Detail Project Report of the Punatshang Chu hydropower project. However, a survey of fishes in the Punatshang Chu hydropower project area at the end of 2011 was surprising. We collected and identified 15 species from the project area during the inventory. While the numbers of species reported are similar in both the cases, 12 of the 14 species reported by the hydropower project did not match with the current study.

Our survey found some species that are new records for Bhutan. The *Parachiloglanis* sp., suspected to be a new species in the earlier report, is identified as *P. hodgarti*. This species was also collected from a tributary of the Punatshang Chu in the project area. *Glyptothorax* cf. *telchitta* was also recorded in the main Punatshang Chu. Two *Garra* species were recorded from the project area. One of the *Garra* species is suspected to be a new species but requires further collection. In the hydropower project report *Schizothorax progastus* is reported to be an abundant species in the project area. However, this is a warm water species found in the subtropical rivers. Instead, we found *S. richardsonii* to be the most common species in the project area. A preliminary checklist of fishes for Bhutan will be published soon for public access.



Parachiloglanis hodgarti, a new record for Bhutan