



DIVERSITY AND ABUNDANCE OF HERPETOFAUNA AROUND MALLATHAHALLI LAKE, BANGALORE, INDIA

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Abstract

Biological diversity inseparably pedals the functioning and stabilization of any ecosystem. Herpetofaunal (amphibians and reptiles) checklists and studies serve a major role in providing information on productivity and community dynamics, especially in a lake ecosystem. The present study was carried out in and around Mallathahalli Lake in Bangalore, Karnataka, India from May 2018 to June 2019 to document the diversity and abundance of herpetofauna living dependent on the ecosystem with special reference to anthropogenic interventions. Diverse habitat types were surveyed applying hand capture, opportunistic spotting, roadkill analysis, call survey, and acquiring information from local people. The current study resulted in the identification of a total of 8 species of amphibians and 23 species of reptiles. The abundance of the species of herpetofauna was noted to be highly frequent during the rainy season. *Duttaphrynus melanostictus* was the most common amphibian species to register while *Mycrohyala ornata* was the rarest. Only one species of turtle (*Melanochelys trijuga*), 7 species of lizards, and 15 species of Ophiofauna were recorded. Anthropogenic disturbances are negligible in the area except for very few fishing activities that take place. The lake banks seem to be a house of different fauna and flora living dependent on the ecosystem making the place biologically diverse.

Keywords: Amphibia, anthropogenic intervention, biodiversity, reptiles, herpetofauna