

Faunal diversity of Ajmer Aravallis with special reference to Vertebrates, illegal mining and need to conserve Aravallis.

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Abstract

Rajasthan is the second largest state in India occupying an area of 342274sq.km. It stretches between 23⁰ N' to 30⁰ 12'N lat and 69⁰ 30'E, 78⁰ 17'E long. It forms the eastern extremity of great arid and semiarid belt of the world. A striking geological feature of Rajasthan is the presence of Aravallis the oldest Plateau mountains of the world. Aravalli range literally means line of peaks, range of mountains in west India running approximately 692km. in NE direction, across Indian states Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab. The southern end is Palampur near Ahmedabad Gujrat and terminates into Raisina hill (last extension). The area west to Aravallis is desert and area east of this mountain is semiarid. Ajmer is located centrally in Rajasthan also known as heart of Rajasthan. About 7miles from the city is Pushkar lake created by the touch of lord Brahma. The Dargah of Khawaja Mouinuddin Chisti is holiest shrine next to Mecca in the world. Ajmer has hot dry summer and cold bracing winter. The temperature varies from 6-45 ⁰C. The winter extends from November to February and summer from march to june followed by rainy season till September. The normal annual rainfall is 527mm.



A view of Ajmer Aravallis

The faunal diversity of Ajmer with special reference to vertebrates is

Fishes: 42 species of fresh water fishes are recorded (*P. sarana*, *P. sopore*, *Catla catla*, *Labeo rohita*, *Cirrhinus mrigala* etc.)

Amphibians: 9 species recorded (*Hoplobatrachus tigerinus*, *E. cyanophlitis*, *F. limnocharis*, *S. breviceps*, *S. rolandae*, *D. melanostictus*, *D. stomaticus*, *M. ornate*, *U. systoma*)

Reptiles: 25 species recorded (Lizards: *Uromastix hardiwicki*, *Ophiomorus tridactylus*, *Acanthodactylus cantoris cantoris*, *Stenodactylus orientalis*, *Cyrtodactylus scaber*, *Hemidactylus brooki*, *H. triendrus*, *H. Leschenaultia*, *H. Flaviviridis*, *Calotes versicolor*, *Agama agilis*, *Agama minor*, *Ophisops jerdoni*, *Varanus bengalensis*, *Geochelon elegans*)

Snakes: *Ramhpotyphlops*, *Leptotyphlops macrorhynchus*, *Eryx johni johni*, *Ptyas mucosus*, *Bungarus Carulcus*, *Naja naja naja*, *Vipera russelli russelli*, *Echis carinatus*.

Aves: 150 species recorded (*Passer domesticus*, *Acridotheres tristis*, *Acriditheres ginginianus*, *Sturnus contra*, *Sturnus pagodarum*, *Nectarine asiatica*, *Megalaima haemacephala*, *Ploceus philippinus*, etc.)

Mammals: 15 species recorded (*Herpestes edwardsii*, *Funambulus pinnari*, *Rattus rattus*, *Talpa*, *Felis domesticus*, *Cannis familiaris*, etc.)

Table-1. Frogs and Toads of Ajmer Aravallis: Their status, Population trends, IUCN criteria, Red list criteria.

S.no.	Species	Common name	Current status	Population trend	IUCN criteria	Red list category
	<i>Dicroglossidae</i>					
1.	<i>Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis</i>	Indian skipper frog	MC	Stable	LRnt/DD/N	LCver3.1
2.	<i>Hoplobatrachus tigerinus</i>	Indian Bull Frog	CO	declining	VU/DD/A1d	LCver3.1
3.	<i>Fejervarya limnocharis</i>	Cricket frog	NC	Declining	VU/DD/A1ac	LCver3.1
4.	<i>Sphaerotheca breviceps</i>	Burrowing frog	NC	Declining		LCver3.1
5.	<i>Sphaerotheca rolandae</i>	Rolands Burrowing frog	RA	Sharply declining	LRnt/DD/N	LCver3.1
	<i>Bufo</i>					
6.	<i>Duttaphrynus melanostictus</i>	Common Asian frog	NC	Stable	VU/DD/A1abc	LCver 3.1
7.	<i>D. stomaticus</i>	Marbled toad	MC	Stable	LRnt/DD/N	LCver3.1
	<i>Micrihylidae</i>					
8.	<i>Microhyla ornata</i>	Ornate narrow mouthed frog	CO	Declining	LRlc/DD/N	LCver 3.1
9.	<i>Uperodon systoma</i>	Marbled balloon frog	RA	Sharply declining	LRnt/DD/N	LCver3.1

MC - Most Common, CO - Common, NC- Not Common, RA-Rare

Conclusion and Prospects

Aravallis are the oldest plateau mountains inhabiting more than 40 species of fresh water fishes, 9sp of amphibians, 25 species of reptiles, more than 100 species of birds and more than 15 species of mammals so illegal mining should be stopped to protect the species of Aravallis.

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