



DISTRIBUTION OF SANGUIVOROUS LEECH *ASIATICOBDELLA BIRMANICA* (ANNELIDA) FROM A POLLUTED STREAM AND ISOLATED PONDS OF DISTRICT PARBHANI IN MAHARASHTRA INDIA

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The leech species, *A. birmanica* was found abundantly in the Pingalgad stream flowing near Parbhani city of Maharashtra state. The stream water level fluctuates seasonally; during summer months the stream converts into large, semi-permanent and permanent ponds and pools connected to each other by narrow flow of water in the up-stream region of Parbhani city. Nearly 1 million L of untreated sewage that gets mixed into the stream daily, converts the stream into a large flowing drainage. Daily entry of hundreds of domesticated buffaloes in to the stream and various ponds formed in the stream are easily available host for *A. birmanica* to suck the blood. During winter season the leech species hibernate when the stream water temperature is 7°C to 8°C. The hibernated leeches are comparatively dark in color than non-hibernated individuals.