

## NEW RANGE EXTENSION OF *HYPSELOBARBUS KOLUS* (SYKES, 1839) : A VULNERABLE FISH SPECIES FROM THE VAMSADHARA RIVER BASIN OF ANDHRA PRADESH

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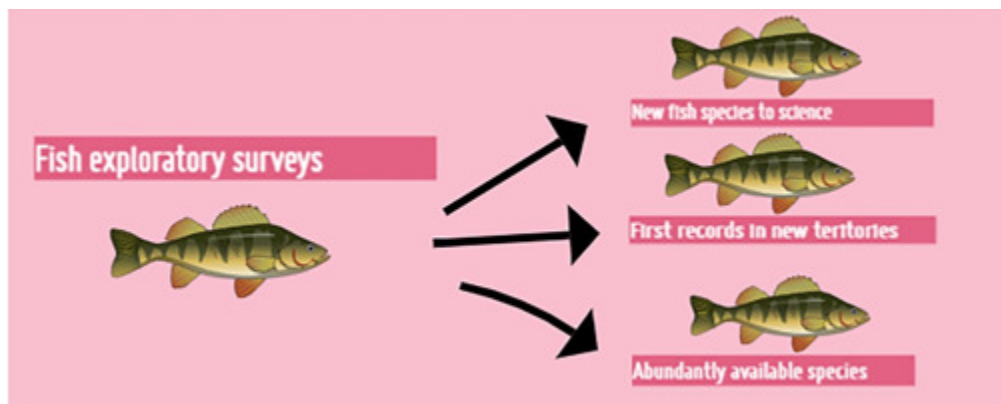
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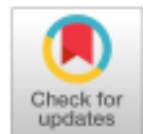
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**ABSTRACT :** The IUCN Red listed fish species *Hypselobarbus kolus* was discovered for the first time in the Kureru hill stream of the Vamsadhara river basin, Andhra Pradesh, India, by the current exploratory investigation in undiscovered streams of the river. *Hypselobarbus kolus* has previously been reported from the Krishna, Godavari and Cauvery River systems in Peninsular India as well as Western Ghats streams. Careful observation of morphological characters, meristic counts and body measurements compared with all available literature confirms the first record of this fish in the Vamsadhara river basin. We discovered that the fish has a fresh distributional record from the Andhra Pradesh region of the Vamsadhara River, and if we properly protect it, it will increase aquaculture systems in the future.

**Key words :** Hill stream, vulnerable fish, Vamsadhara river, Andhra Pradesh.



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### INTRODUCTION

*Hypselobarbus kolus*, a species of fish in the cyprinidae family was first described by Sykes (1838) under the name *Barbus kolus*. Later, in Menon and Remadevi's (1995) paper, they synonymized this species with *H. curmuca*. After that, Vairavel *et al*

(1998) considered it to be a distinct and legitimate species. Only the Indian subcontinent is home to medium-sized fishes of the *Hypselobarbus* genus. There are various freshwater bodies in the south Indian states that are home to this fish, which are regarded as food. Bleeker (1860) Differentiating *Hypselobarbus* species from other in the

**Abbreviation used:** Andhra University Zoology Fish Museum (AUZFM)



**Fig. 1** : Fresh specimen of *Hypselobarbus kolus*.

Vamsadhara river basin, Andhra Pradesh. Further endemic, endangered species breeding area exploration in the Vamsadhara river basin is being done together with studies of possible species for sustainable aquaculture in the riverine systems of Andhra Pradesh.

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#### Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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