



REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 57285

Title: Freshwater fish diversity in and around Vadodara district: A focus on small indigenous species.

Recommendation:

Accept as it is

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity			✓	
Significance			✓	

Reviewer Name: **ANAPANA GOPAL**

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

General Comments

The manuscript presents a regional assessment of freshwater fish diversity in Vadodara district with a focus on small indigenous fish species (SIF). The topic is relevant and contributes to baseline biodiversity documentation, which is important for fisheries management and conservation. The study spans a reasonable duration (2020–2023) and attempts to integrate taxonomy, conservation status, and socioeconomic relevance.

However, the manuscript largely remains descriptive and lacks deeper ecological analysis, statistical rigor, and methodological clarity. While it provides useful species inventory data, its novelty and analytical depth need strengthening.

Content and Originality

- The study claims to be the *first consolidated account* for the region; however, this claim should be more critically justified with a stronger literature gap analysis.
- Species inventory studies are common; hence, originality is moderate unless supported by:
 - Novel analytical approaches (e.g., diversity indices, habitat comparison)
 - Seasonal variation or ecological drivers
- Inclusion of SIF and their nutritional importance is a positive aspect but remains largely review-based rather than data-driven.

Suggestion: Add biodiversity indices (Shannon, Simpson), species richness estimators, and comparative analysis with other regions to improve originality.

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Technical Quality

- Methodology lacks sufficient detail:
 - Sampling design (random/systematic/stratified) is unclear.
 - Number of sampling sites and frequency of sampling are not specified.
 - No mention of fishing gear types, effort standardization, or bias.
- Preservation and identification methods are acceptable but standard.
- Molecular analysis is mentioned but no results are presented, which raises concerns.
- No statistical analysis is included.
- Conservation assessment is descriptive without analytical interpretation.

Minor Issue: Absence of quantitative ecological analysis significantly weakens the scientific rigor.

Language and Presentation

- Overall language is understandable but contains:
 - Repetition (e.g., importance of fish and biodiversity stated multiple times)
 - Minor grammatical inconsistencies
 - Inconsistent capitalization (e.g., Ichthyofaunal vs ichthyofaunal)
- Some sentences are overly long and need simplification.
- Scientific names formatting is mostly correct but should be italicized consistently.

Suggestion: Professional language editing is recommended for clarity and conciseness.

Structure and Organization

- The manuscript follows a standard structure (Abstract → Introduction → Methodology → Results → Discussion → Conclusion).
- However:
 - Results and Discussion are partially repetitive.
 - Discussion lacks critical comparison with previous studies.
 - Conclusion restates results rather than providing insights or future directions.
- Figures and tables are relevant but:
 - Not sufficiently discussed in the text.
 - Some inconsistencies in table formatting and taxonomy (e.g., family classification updates).

References and Citations

- Adequate number of references are included.
- Mix of classical and recent sources is good.
- However:
 - Some citations are outdated.
 - Formatting inconsistencies exist.
 - Duplicate conceptual references (e.g., Mohanty et al., 2013 appears twice with similar context).
- Use of databases like FishBase is appropriate.

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Overall Recommendation

The manuscript has potential as a regional biodiversity documentation study but requires minor revision to meet publication standards. The current version is largely descriptive and lacks analytical depth and methodological clarity.

Final Decision:

Minor Revision Required