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## **Mangrove Associated Molluscs of India**

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### **Abstract**

Phylum Mollusca, the second largest of invertebrates, comprises of soft bodied animals. They inhabit very diverse habitats like marine, estuarine, freshwater, terrestrial and arboreal. They play important role in the function and productivity of coastal mangrove swamps. The attempt here has been to provide comprehensive check list of molluscs found in the Indian mangrove areas, compiled from various sources and from our field studies in Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka State. In India, about 215 species of molluscs were reported from mangrove areas of east and west coasts. In Uttara Kannada, our molluscan sample studies during 2010-12 period, using random collection of leaf litter and opportunistic observation methods, about 12 genera of gastropods and four genera of bivalves were found by us. The investigations mainly covered the mangrove areas in the estuaries of the west flowing rivers from the Western Ghats namely Aghanashini, Gangavali, Kali, and Sharavathi. Although estuarine molluscs as such were inventorised from the district in some earlier studies, this is the first time that we gain glimpses of mangrove associated molluscs.

**Key words:** Mangrove molluscs, India, Karnataka, Western Ghats.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Mangroves are salt-tolerant plants inhabiting the tropical and subtropical estuarine regions. They are ranked among the most productive ecosystem of the earth. Few to mention of their ecosystem services are provision forestry products, protection from coast erosion, preservation of water quality, reduction of pollution, recycling of nutrients, and high amount of carbon sequestration especially in the soils (Kathiresan, 2009; Sathirathai, 1998; Bandaranayake, 2002). Of the many kinds of biodiversity elements associated with mangroves, from microbes to mammals, molluscs have important ecosystem functions associated with degradation of organic detritus to playing key role in the trophic structure of estuaries.

Molluscs make the second largest Phylum of invertebrates, next only to the Arthropods. In mangroves, molluscs occupy all the levels in the food web such as predators, herbivores, detritus and filter feeders. Thereby they play an important role in maintaining the function and productivity of mangroves. Gastropods and bivalves are the two major classes of molluscans occupying mangrove areas. These macrobenthic molluscs can be broadly grouped under three categories epifauna (living on mud or surface area of the land), infauna (burying themselves in the substratum), and arboreal (living on the vegetation); some molluscs have habitat overlap as well (Dey, 2006; Kesavan et al., 2009; Shanmugam and Vairamani, 2009). Molluscs are used for various purposes like food, ornamental, poultry feed, and source of lime (Boominathan et al., 2008). In India, studies on mangrove associated molluscs were done by Das and Dev Roy (1989), Dehadrai (1994), Dey (2006), Ganapati and Rao (1959), Ingole et al. (2002), Kesavan et al. (2009), Kurian (1984), Mandal and Nandi (1989), Ramamorty and Rao (1993), Oswin (1998), Pereira et al. (2002), Radhakrishna and Janakiram (1975), Radhakrishnan et al. (2006), Santhakumaran (1983), Shanmugam and Vairamani (2009), Subba Rao (2003), Suresh et al.

(2012), and Venkatesan et al. (2010). Dey (2006) mentioned that the Indian subcontinent has about 100 molluscs associated with mangroves. However, there is no comprehensive list of molluscs found in Indian mangrove areas. Hence, the objective of this paper is to provide a comprehensive list of molluscs found in the Indian mangrove areas.

## 2.0 MATERIALS AND METHODS

The molluscs found in the mangrove areas were compiled from various studies conducted in Indian mangrove areas. Molluscs were sampled in the mangrove areas through random collection of leaf litter and by opportunistic observations at low tide during 2010 and 2012. The molluscs from leaf litter samples were segregated by thorough examination of leaf litter under the enamel tray in the laboratory. Opportunistic observations were performed in Aghanashini, Gangavali, Kali, and Sharavathi estuaries (Figure 1), leaf litter sampling was carried out only in the Aghanashini and Sharavathi. In opportunistic observation logs, pools, stones, rocks, surface, mangrove tree trunks, branches, leaves, and roots were examined for molluscs.

## 3.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Dey, (2006) mentions about 100 species of molluscs from mangrove areas of Indian subcontinent. The literature survey reveal of 215 species of molluscs from India. Of these are 133 Gastropoda, 77 Bivalvia, four Cephalopoda, and only one from Polyplacophora (Table 1). During our investigations in the mangrove areas of the estuaries of the west flowing rivers from the Western Ghats namely Aghanashini, Gangavali, Kali, and Sharavathi about 16 genera of molluscs were found. Of these 12 genera are assigned to class Gastropoda. Of these eight were assigned to generic level viz. Assiminea, Cerithidea, Littoraria, Neritina, Onchidium, Stenothyra, Telescopium, Thiara, one was assigned to the family Ellobiidae and three remain to be identified. Four taxa of

class Bivalvia are identified to generic level viz. *Crassostrea*, *Modiolus*, *Polymesoda*, and *Saccostrea*. The edible bivalve species such as *Anadara granosa*, *Meretrix meretrix*, *M. casta*, *Paphia malabarica*, *Villorita cyprinoides*, and *Perna viridis*, although abundant in the local estuaries (Boominathan et al., 2008) were not found in the mangrove areas, although such a conclusion needs to be strengthened by further observations.

#### 4.0 CONCLUSION

As ecology and biodiversity studies on mangrove ecosystems, rated among the most productive ecosystems of the world, are gaining momentum, there has been not yet any comprehensive inventory of mangrove molluscs, which are vital components of estuarine and other littoral ecosystem functioning. From the entire subcontinent of India, hitherto, not more than 100 species of mangrove associated molluscs were reported (Dey, 2006). Our compilation elevates this list substantially to over 200 species. It is as such difficult to isolate exclusive mangrove molluscs at our present level of efforts. As mangroves worldwide, and particularly along the densely populated Indian coast, are threatened with various anthropogenic pressures, from particularly developmental processes, nothing much is known about the fate of the high diversity of molluscs associated with these swamps. Being vital links in estuarine and coastal nutrient cycles and themselves constituting food for scores of faunal species in higher trophic levels, including of the humans, the mangrove molluscs require much more attention from conservation biologists. This is all the more important since their silent local extinctions from increasingly human impacted estuaries might set off cascading effects with far reaching consequences affecting the food security of both humans and various other species in water and land, particularly of fishes and birds.

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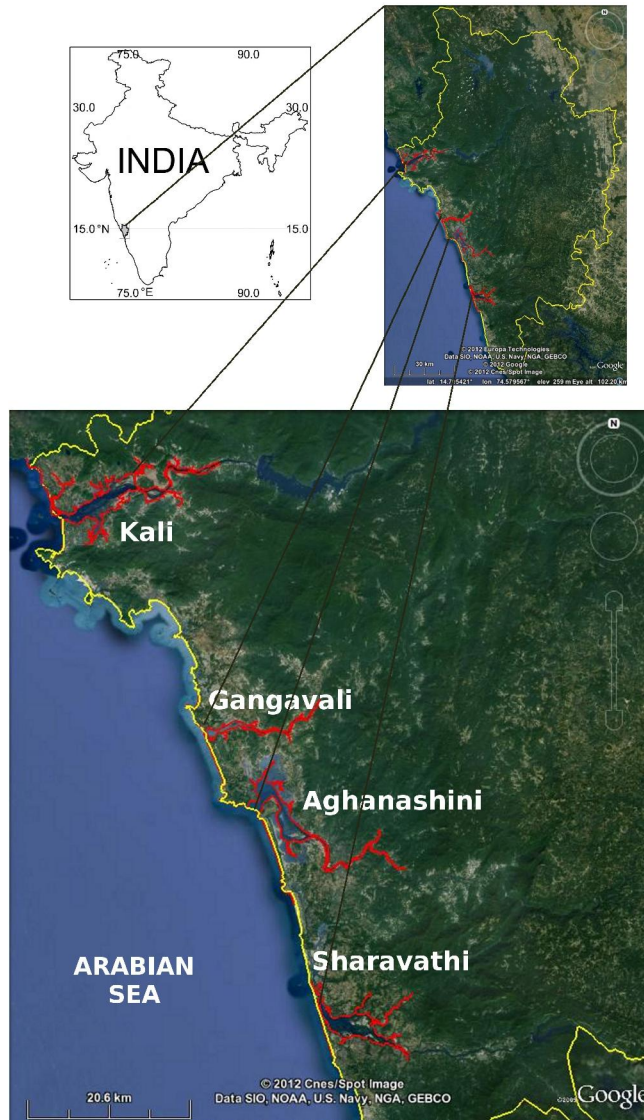


Figure 1: Estuaries of Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka State, India.

Table 1: The comprehensive list of molluscs found in the Indian mangrove areas.

Species	Authority
<b>Class: Gastropoda</b>	
<i>Amaea acuminata</i>	Sowerby, 1844
<i>Assiminea beddomeana</i>	Nevill, 1880
<i>Assiminea brevicula</i>	Pfeiffer, 1854
<i>Assiminea francesiae</i>	Wood, 1828
<i>Assiminea hungerfordiana</i>	Nevill, 1880
<i>Assiminea microsculpta</i>	Nevill, 1880

<i>Assimineea nitida</i>	Pease, 1865
<i>Assimineea theobaldiana</i>	Nevill, 1880
<i>Assimineea woodmasoniana</i>	Nevill, 1880
<i>Auricula translucens</i>	Annandale, 1919
<i>Batillaria sordida</i>	Gmelin, 1791
<i>Bulla ampulla</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Canarium erythrinum</i>	Dillwyn, 1817
<i>Cassidula aurisfelis</i>	Bruguiere, 1789
<i>Cassidula bensoni</i>	Pfeiffer
<i>Cassidula mustelina</i>	Deshayes, 1830
<i>Cassidula nucleus</i>	Gmelin, 1791
<i>Cerithidea alata</i>	Philippi, 1847
<i>Cerithidea cingulata</i>	Gmelin, 1791
<i>Cerithidea decollata</i>	Linnaeus, 1767
<i>Cerithidea djadjariensis</i>	Martin, 1899
<i>Cerithidea fluviatilis</i>	Potiez and Michaud
<i>Cerithidea obtusa</i>	Lamarck, 1822
<i>Cerithidea quadrata</i>	Sowerby, 1866
<i>Cerithidea weversi</i>	
<i>Cerithium citrinum</i>	Sowerby, 1885
<i>Cerithium columna</i>	Sowerby, 1834
<i>Cerithium coralium</i>	Kiener, 1841
<i>Cerithium scabridum</i>	Philippi, 1848
<i>Cerithium trailli</i>	Sowerby, 1855
<i>Cerithium zonatum</i>	Wood, 1828
<i>Chicoreus brunneus</i>	Link, 1807
<i>Cithon oualaniensis</i>	Lesson, 1831
<i>Clathrella clathrata</i>	Philippi, 1844
<i>Clithon bicolor</i>	Recluz, 1842
<i>Clithon corona</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Cuthona annandalei</i>	Eliot, 1910
<i>Cyclostrema (Tubiola) innocens</i>	Preston, 1915
<i>Dolomena variabilis</i>	Swainson, 1820
<i>Dostia crepidularia</i>	Lamarck, 1822
<i>Drupella margariticola</i>	Broderip
<i>Ellobium aurisjudae</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Ellobium gangeticum</i>	Pfeiffer, 1855

<i>Elysia bangtawaensis</i>	Swennen, 1998
<i>Engina alveolata</i>	Kiener, 1836
<i>Ergalatax contracta</i>	Reeve, 1846
<i>Ergalatax heptagonalis</i>	Reeve, 1846
<i>Gangetica milicea</i>	Nevill
<i>Haminoea crocata</i>	Pease, 1860
<i>Hemifusus pugilinus</i>	Born, 1778
<i>Indoplanorbis exustus</i>	Deshayes, 1834
<i>Lambis (Lambis) lambis</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Littoraria carinifera</i>	Menke, 1830
<i>Littoraria melanostoma</i>	Gray, 1839
<i>Littoraria scabra</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Littoraria undulata</i>	Gray, 1839
<i>Littorina intermedia</i>	Philippi, 1846
<i>Lunella cinerea</i>	Born, 1778
<i>Mainwaringia paludomoidea</i>	Nevill, 1884
<i>Mauritia arabica</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Melampus caffer</i>	Kuster, 1844
<i>Melampus castaneus</i>	Muhlfeldt, 1818
<i>Melampus ceylonicus</i>	Petit
<i>Melampus coffea</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Melampus pulchella</i>	Petit, 1842
<i>Melampus singaporensis</i>	Pfeiffer, 1855
<i>Melampus striatus</i>	Pease, 1861
<i>Melanoides tuberculata</i>	Muller, 1774
<i>Mitra (Strigatella) paupercula</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Mitra (Strigatella) scutulata</i>	Gmelin, 1791
<i>Monodonta (Monodonta) labio</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Morula (Morula)anaxeres</i>	Kiener, 1836
<i>Muricopsis bombayanus</i>	Melvill, 1893
<i>Naquetia capucina</i>	Roeding, 1798
<i>Nassarius foveolatus</i>	Reeve, 1853
<i>Nassarius globosus</i>	Quoy and Gaimard, 1833
<i>Nassarius immersa</i>	Mousson
<i>Nassarius olivaceus</i>	Bruguiere, 1789
<i>Nassarius orissaensis</i>	Preston, 1914
<i>Nassarius stolatus</i>	Gmelin, 1791

<i>Nassarius subconstrictus</i>	Sowerby, 1899
<i>Nerita albicilla</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Nerita articulata</i>	Gould, 1847
<i>Nerita chamaeleon</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Nerita chameleon</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Nerita crepidularia</i>	Lamarck, 1822
<i>Nerita insculpta</i>	Recluz, 1841
<i>Nerita planospira</i>	Anton, 1838
<i>Nerita polita</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Nerita semirugosa</i>	Recluz, 1841
<i>Nerita squamulata</i>	Le Guillou, 1841
<i>Nerita undulata</i>	Gmelin, 1791
<i>Neritina depressa</i>	Benson, 1836
<i>Neritina smithi</i>	Wood, 1828
<i>Neritina violacea</i>	Gmelin, 1791
<i>Nodilittorina</i>	Martens, 1897
<i>Notocochlis qualteriana</i>	Recluz, 1844
<i>Notocochlis tigerina</i>	Roding, 1798
<i>Onchidium tenerum</i>	Stoliczka, 1869
<i>Onchidium tigrinum</i>	Stoliczka, 1869
<i>Onchidium typhae</i>	Buchanan, 1800
<i>Pascula ochrostoma</i>	Blainville, 1832
<i>Peronia verruculata</i>	Cuvier, 1830
<i>Pila virens</i>	Lamarck, 1822
<i>Pila globosa</i>	Swainson
<i>Planaxis sulcatus</i>	Born, 1778
<i>Polinices tumidus</i>	Swainson, 1840
<i>Potamacmaea fluviatilis</i>	Blanford, 1868
<i>Potamides cingulatus</i>	Gmelin, 1791
<i>Pseudanachis duclosiana</i>	Sowerby, 1847
<i>Pseudonerita obtusa</i>	Benson, 1836
<i>Pseudonerita sulculosa</i>	von Martens, 1879
<i>Pugilina cochlidium</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Purpura bufo</i>	Lamarck, 1822
<i>Purpura persica</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Pythia plicata</i>	Gray, 1825
<i>Rhinoclavis (Rhinoclavis) sinensis</i>	Gmelin, 1791



<i>Rhinoclavis aspera</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Rhinoclavis vertagus</i>	Linnaeus, 1767
<i>Salinator burmana</i>	Blanford, 1867
<i>Septaria caerulescens</i>	Sowerby
<i>Stenothyra blanfordiana</i>	Nevill, 1880
<i>Stenothyra deltae</i>	Benson, 1836
<i>Syncera brevicula</i>	Pfeiffer
<i>Telescopium telescopium</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Terebralia palustris</i>	Linnaeus, 1767
<i>Thais (Thalessa) virgata</i>	Dillwyn, 1817
<i>Thaisella blanfordi</i>	Melvill, 1893
<i>Thaisella lacera</i>	Born, 1778
<i>Thaisella tissoti</i>	Petit, 1852
<i>Thiara scabra</i>	Muller, 1774
<i>Umboonium vestiarium</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Vanikoro cancellata</i>	Lamarck, 1822
<b>Class: Bivalvia</b>	
<i>Anadara granosa</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Anadara rhombea</i>	Born, 1780
<i>Bactronophorus thoracites</i>	Gould, 1856
<i>Bankia bipennata</i>	Turton, 1819
<i>Bankia campanellata</i>	Moll and Roch, 1931
<i>Bankia carinata</i>	Gray, 1827
<i>Bankia nordi</i>	Moll, 1935
<i>Bankia rochi</i>	Moll, 1931
<i>Barbatia candida</i>	Helbling, 1779
<i>Barnea candida</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Cardites bicolor</i>	Lamarck, 1819
<i>Codakia tigerina</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Crassostrea cuttackensis</i>	Newton and Smith, 1912
<i>Crassostrea gryphoides</i>	Schlothem, 1813
<i>Crassostrea madrassensis</i>	Preston
<i>Crassostrea palmipes</i>	Sowerby, 1871
<i>Dicyathifer manni</i>	Wright, 1866
<i>Donax cuneatus</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Donax incarnatus</i>	Gmelin, 1791
<i>Donax lubricus</i>	Hanley, 1845

<i>Dosinia (Asa) tumida</i>	Gray, 1838
<i>Enigmonia aenigmatica</i>	Holten
<i>Gafrarium pectinatum</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Geloina galathea</i>	Morch, 1850
<i>Geloina siamica</i>	Prime, 1861
<i>Glauconome cerea</i>	Reeve, 1844
<i>Glauconome chinensis</i>	Gray, 1828
<i>Isognomon ephippium</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Katelysia opima</i>	Gmelin, 1791
<i>Laternula truncata</i>	Lamarck, 1818
<i>Lyrodus massa</i>	Lamy, 1923
<i>Lyrodus pedicellatus</i>	Quatrefages, 1849
<i>Macoma birmanica</i>	Philippi, 1833
<i>Macoma qubernaculum</i>	
<i>Mactra cuneata</i>	Chemnitz
<i>Marcia opima</i>	Gmelin, 1791
<i>Martesia striata</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Meretrix attenuata</i>	Dunker, 1863
<i>Meretrix casta</i>	Chemnitz
<i>Meretrix meretrix</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Modiolus americanus</i>	Leach, 1815
<i>Modiolus moduloides</i>	Roding, 1798
<i>Modiolus striatulus</i>	Hanley, 1844
<i>Modiolus traillii</i>	Reeve, 1857
<i>Modiolus undulatus</i>	Dunker, 1856
<i>Nausitora dunlopei</i>	Wright, 1884
<i>Nausitora hedleyi</i>	Schepman, 1919
<i>Nausitora hedleyi</i>	Schepman, 1919
<i>Neotrapezium sublaevigatum</i>	Lamarck, 1819
<i>Nototeredo edax</i>	Hedley, 1895
<i>Nuculana mauritiana</i>	Sowerby, 1833
<i>Paphia malabarica</i>	Chemnitz, 1782
<i>Paphia undulata</i>	Born, 1778
<i>Pelecypora trigona</i>	Reeve, 1850
<i>Perna perna</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Perna viridis</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Pharella javanicus</i>	Lamarck, 1818

<i>Placenta placenta</i>	Linnaeus
<i>Placuna placenta</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Polymesoda bengalensis</i>	Lamarck, 1818
<i>Potamocorbula abbreviata</i>	Preston, 1907
<i>Saccostrea cucullata</i>	Born, 1778
<i>Siliqua albida</i>	Adams and Reeve, 1850
<i>Solen annandalei</i>	Preston, 1915
<i>Solen brevis</i>	Gray, 1842
<i>Solen kempfi</i>	Preston, 1915
<i>Sphenia pedata</i>	
<i>Strigilla splendida</i>	Anton, 1833
<i>Tanysiphon rivalis</i>	Benson, 1858
<i>Tegillarca granosa</i>	Linnaeus, 1758
<i>Tellina ala</i>	Hanley, 1844
<i>Tellina bruguieri</i>	Hanley
<i>Tellina iridescens</i>	Benson, 1842
<i>Teredo furcifera</i>	von Martens, 1894
<i>Theora opalina</i>	Hinds, 1843
<i>Uperotus rehderi</i>	Nair, 1954
<i>Villorita cyprinoides</i>	Gray
<b>Class: Cephalopoda</b>	
<i>Loligo indica</i>	Pfeiffer, 1884
<i>Octopus rugosus</i>	Bosc, 1792
<i>Sepia aculeata</i>	Van Hasselt, 1835
<i>Sepia inermis</i>	Van Hasselt, 1835
<b>Class: Polyplacophora</b>	
<i>Ischnochiton winckworthi</i>	Leloup, 1936

**Source:** Das and Dev Roy (1989), Dehadrai (1994), Dey (2006), Ganapati and Rao (1959), Ingole et al. (2002), Kesavan et al. (2009), Kurian (1984), Mandal and Nandi (1989), Ramamorty and Rao (1993), Oswin (1998), Pereira et al. (2002), Radhakrishna and Janakiram (1975), Radhakrishnan et al. (2006), Santhakumaran (1983), Shanmugam and Vairamani (2009), Subba Rao (2003), Suresh et al. (2012), Venkatesan et al. (2010).