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Cover: Fish species recorded in the Gowthami-Godavari Estuary, Andhra Pradesh: *Lutjanus johnii* (top left), *Triacanthus biaculeatus* (top right), *Acentrogobius cyanomos*, *Elops machnata*, *Trypauchen vagina*, *Oxyurichthys microlepis*. © Paromita Ray.



Drape Fin Barb *Oreochthys crenuchoides* (Schäfer, 2009) (Cypriniformes: Cyprinidae) a new fish species report for Nepal

Tapil Prakash Rai

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With more than 6,000 rivers, Nepal is one of the most biodiverse rich countries in terms of freshwater fish diversity (Shrestha 2008; Khatri et al. 2020). To date, a total of 240 species of fish have been reported from Nepal (Froese & Pauly 2021). Of the 240, 118 species were recorded from the Morang District that adjoins with Jhapa District in the west (Subba et al. 2017). Kharel (2013) conducted an extensive survey of fishes in the Budoholi Wetland in Jhapa District and recorded 43 species of fish. Globally, the big-sized freshwater fishes have declined by 94%, and 30% of all freshwater fish species are threatened with extinction according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List (World Wildlife Fund 2021).

The Budoholi Wetland ('Budo Holi') is formed by the old course of the Aduwa River and is irregularly extended from the north-west inlet to the south-east in the outlet (Rai et al. 2006). The wetland is located in Arjundhara Municipality-9 (26.6739°N, 88.0146°E; 148 m) of Jhapa District in southeastern Nepal (Image 1) and is managed by Martyrs Memorial Park under the Sukhani Martyrs Memorial Foundation (SUMMEF). Once this wetland was a marshy area but it became a lacustrine habitat due to the construction of the dam by the Park. Just below the

outlet of the main body of water, a natural pond occurs, which is popularly known as the Turtle Rescue and Conservation Centre (TRCC) Natural Lake (Image 2). This natural pond has luxuriant aquatic flora and fauna and is strictly protected for rearing softshell turtles by TRCC. The maximum depth of the pond is 100 cm, which has a muddy substrate, and sunlight that penetrates to the bottom.

During the fish survey, two sets of foldable umbrella fishing traps, with six sides that each have a hole in them were used to trap fish in the natural pond. Chopped pieces of chicken and puffed rice were used as bait in the trap. On 10 September 2021 the traps were set by submerging them in the pond and kept there overnight. Except for one specimen, all the fish captured in the traps were identified using standard identification keys for Nepali fish species (Shrestha 2008; Froese & Pauly 2021).

The unknown specimen was identified as Drape Fin Barb *Oreochthys crenuchoides* (Image 3) in consultation with ichthyologists and available ichthyology literature from adjacent areas of neighbouring India. This small cyprinid fish was first described by Schäfer (2009) from the Jorai River in West Bengal, India. The total length (TL) of the captured specimen was measured as 47 mm,

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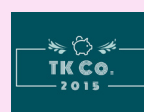
Citation: Rai, T.P. (2022). Drape Fin Barb *Oreochthys crenuchoides* (Schäfer, 2009) (Cypriniformes: Cyprinidae) a new fish species report for Nepal. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 14(8): 21739–21741. <https://doi.org/10.11609/jott.7853.14.8.21739-21741>

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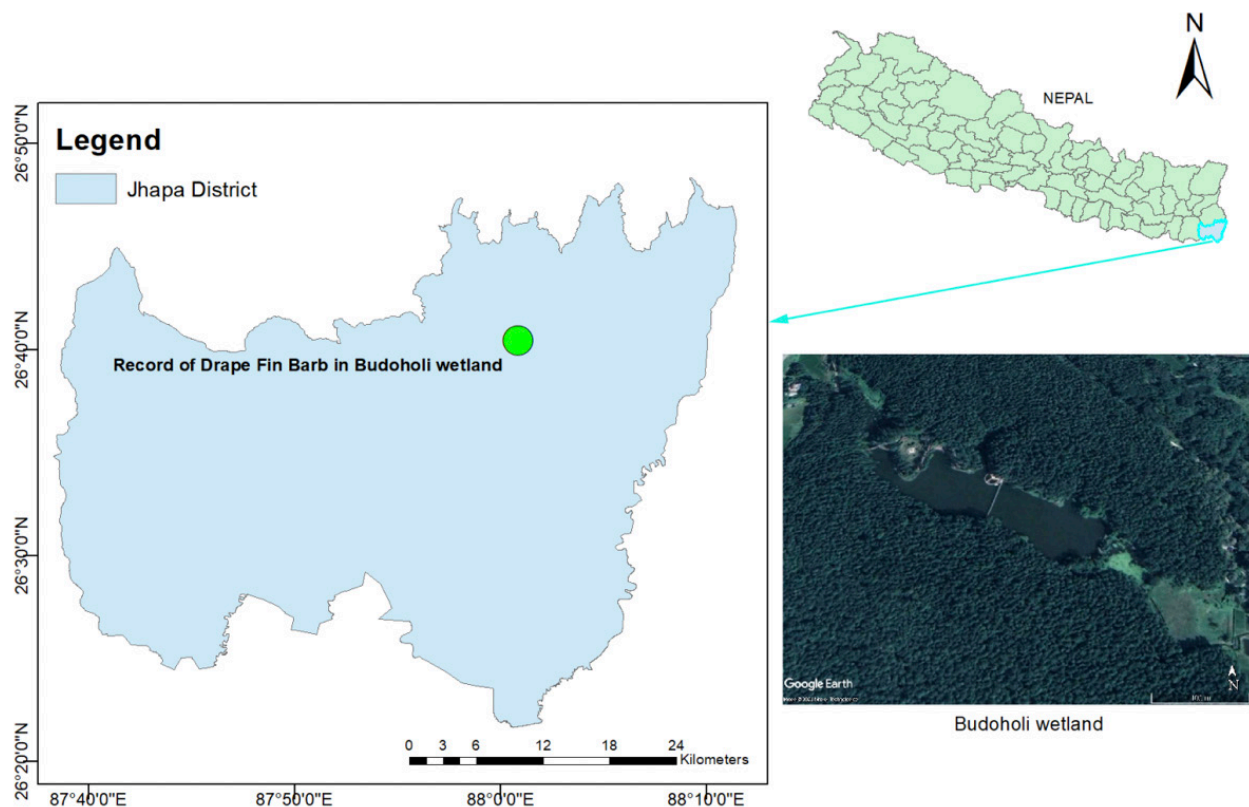


Image 1. Map showing *Oreichthys crenuchoides* recorded location in Jhapa District in southeastern Nepal. The inset image is the Google map of Budoholi Wetland.



Image 2. Habitat of *Oreichthys crenuchoides* in Budoholi Wetland of Martyrs Memorial Park, Arjunhara Municipality in Jhapa District, Nepal. © Tapil Prakash Rai.

which is the largest known specimen to date (Schäfer 2009). It has a prominent dorsal fin, the snout is blunt with a large black blotch at the base of the caudal fin, and the black spot or blotch on the anal fin is absent. Drape Fin Barbs typically have 11–13 rows of pores on the cheeks, 17–19 + 2 scales in longitudinal series, and seven scales in transverse series (Schäfer 2009). Drape Fin Barbs are considered 'Data Deficient'

according to the IUCN Red List (Ng 2010) and this record from Nepal will help in better understanding its spatial distribution. Habitat loss, water pollution, and excessive fish harvesting are the main threats observed in the study area.

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Image 3. *Oreichthys crenuchooides* recorded in Budoholi Wetland of Arjunhara Municipality in Jhapa District, Nepal. © Tapil Prakash Rai.

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(Mammalia: Primates: Cercopithecidae) in Dampa Tiger Reserve, India

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