Faunal Resources of India

India is very rich in terms of biological diversity due to its unique biogeographical location, diversified climatic conditions and enormous ecodiversity and geodiversity. India's immense biological diversity encompasses ecosystems, populations, species and their genetic make-up. This diversity can be attributed to the vast variety in physiography and climatic situations resulting in a diversity of ecological habitats ranging from tropical, sub-tropical, temperature, alpine to desert. According to world biogeographic classification, India represents two of the major realms (the Palaearctic and Indo-Malayan) and three biomes (Tropical Humid Forests, Tropical Dry/Deciduous Forests and Warm Deserts/Semi-Deserts). Wildlife Institute of India has proposed a modified classification – which divides the country into 10 biogeographic regions: Trans-Himalayan, Himalayan, Indian Desert, Semi-Arid, Western Ghats, Deccan Peninsula, Gangetic Plain, North East India, Islands and Coasts. In fact, within only about 2% of world's total landsurface, India is known to have over 7.48% of the species of animals that the world holds and this percentage accounts nearly for 91,797 species so far known, of which insects alone include 61,238 species. Indeed, those groups that are known to occur in India have not received adequate attention, while some other invertebrates (like Nemertinea, Nematomorpha, Priapulida, Pogonophora and Pentastomida) are not known at all in India. Further studies will not only reveal many more species but also certainly enhance the information on endemic species.

Estimated Faunal Diversity in India

Taxonomic group	No. of species		% in India
	World	India	
PROTISTA (Protozoa)	31250	2577	8.24
ANIMALIA			
Mesozoa	71	10	14.08
Porifera	4562	500	10.70
Cnidaria	9916	956	8.73
Ctenophore	100	12	12.00
Platyhelminthes	17504	1626	9.29
Rotifera	2500	330	13.20
Gastrotricha	3000	100	3.33
Kinorhyncha	100	10	10.00
Nematode	30022	2872	9.55
Acanthocephala	800	229	28.62
Sipuncula	145	35	24.14
Mollusca	66535	5152	9.57
Echiura	127	43	33.86

Annelida	12700	841	6.61
Onychophora	100	1	1.00
Arthropoda	**998920**	**71339**	**7.14**
Crustacea	35536	2941	8.28
Insecta	867381	61238	7.06
Arachnida	73440	5829	7.90
Pycnogonida	600	17	2.83
Chilopoda	3000	100	3.33
Diplopoda	7500	162	2.16
Symphyla	120	4	3.33
Merostomata	4	2	50.00
Phoronida	11	3	27.27
Bryozoa (Ectoprocta)	4000	200	5.00
Entoprocta	60	10	16.66
Brachiopoda	300	3	1.00
Chaetognatha	111	30	27.02
Tardigrada	514	30	5.83
Echinodermata	6223	765	12.29
Hemichordata	120	12	10.00
Chordata	**48467**	**5131**	**10.59**
Protochordata	2106	119	5.65
Pisces	21727	2634	12.12
Amphibia	5162	289	5.60
Reptilia	5817	460	7.91
Aves	9026	1232	13.66
Mammalia	4629	397	8.58
Total (Animalia)	**1195567**	**89220**	**7.46**
Grand Total (Protista+Animalia)	**1226817**	**91797**	**7.48**

Source: Animal Discovery 2010, Compiled by: Director, ZSI (Updated January, 2011)