



**Ministry of Environment & Forests,  
Government of India**

## Protected Species of Mollusca

Unrestricted and indiscriminate practices of hunting, poaching and harvesting of animal resources have led to the extinction as well as endangering of many species in the wild. The man from his primitive mode of hunter-gathering of animals for subsistence living in the ancient period to the current-level overexploitation of living resources for consumption and trade has been one of the primal factors responsible for the large scale depletion and consequent extinction or loss of biodiversity on earth.

India is indeed immensely rich and diverse in terms of its marine diversity. Several marine species are exploited on a large scale for their commercial values. The overexploitation of many targeted marine organisms is pushing them to the endangered status in their natural habitat environments. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides a legal provision for the protection of wild animals, birds and plants thereby ensuring not only their sustenance and perpetuity in nature, but also the ecological and environmental security of the country. CITES (Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna) also takes statutory measures to enlist several marine species for prohibition of international trade.

Molluscan diversity (*viz.*, Gastropods, Bivalves, Cephalopods and Scaphopods) in India ranges from marine and freshwater forms to the land dwelling ones. The species diversity reported from the country comprises of 3400 species from marine, 183 from freshwater, and 1487 species from terrestrial (land) ecosystems/habitats. In terms of species richness, the Andaman and Nicobar islands on the east coast and Lakshadweep atoll on the west coast together have the credit of harbouring the maximum number of species. Among the Indian mollusks, several species are well-known for their economic importance in terms of consumptive and commercial values, widely being used as food, ornaments and in garment and pharmaceutical fields, and also as raw material for the production of lime, cement, etc. As a result of overexploitation and their endangered status, the Government of India has included 24 species of Mollusca under various schedules under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, to protect and conserve these animals. Collections or hunting of schedule Mollusca from wild and keeping them in custody in any form, their trade and marketing or the articles made from them, attract punishment or fine or both as per the law.



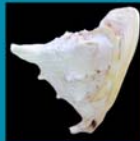
**Zoological Survey of India  
Kolkata**

### Zoological Survey of India

Zoological survey of India was established on 1st July 1916 to promote survey, exploration and research leading to the advancement of knowledge on faunal resources of the country. The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), since its inception, has in its custody and care over 200 years' old collections of mollusca and other forms. As per section 39 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, ZSI is notified as the designated repository for the National Zoological Collections (NZC) of the country. The NZC housed at ZSI now contain more than 30,00,000 identified specimens comprising of over 91, 252+ known species of different groups of animals. The NZC present in different sections of ZSI, the National Heritage of the country, were acquired from the Museum of the Asiatic Society of Bengal and the Zoological section of the Indian Museum and as well accrued through various faunal-collection surveys which ZSI has been carrying out from the early part of 19th century.

Zoological Survey of India, with its headquarters at Kolkata, has 16 Regional Centres established in various parts of the country to carry out the multipronged activities such as: conducting intensive field surveys to ensure the enrichment of the National zoological collections and field observations for the scientific study and documentation of the faunal wealth of the nation; undertaking Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies or programmes in areas falling under their jurisdictions; developing regional faunal museums for scientific and educational purposes; conducting training and awareness programmes to disseminate the knowledge on biodiversity and its conservation; and advising the State, Central and nongovernmental organizations on queries falling within the purviews of the above institutional activities.

### Species included in the Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 Part IV(B) Mollusca



**Scientific Name** : *Cassis Cornuta* (Linnaeus)  
**Common Name** : Horned Helmet Shell  
**Listed in CITES** : No  
**Distribution** : Andaman & Nicobar Islands (A&N), Gulf of Mannar and Pondicherry.

It is commercially called as King Shell. Shell is normally sold as souvenir or decoration piece.



**Scientific Name** : *Charonia tritonis* (Linnaeus)  
**Common Name** : Trumpet triton  
**Listed in CITES** : No  
**Distribution** : A&N and Lakshadweep.

This is one of the largest gastropod found in India. A single shell sometime costs Rs.2000/- or more. It is used as a form of trumpet.



**Scientific Name** : *Conus milneedwardsi* Jousseume  
**Common Name** : Glory of India  
**Listed in CITES** : No  
**Distribution** : A&N, Gulf of Mannar and Pondicherry.

This is a very rare species of Mollusca and the global population is said to be less than 100.



**Scientific Name** : *Cypraeassis rufa* Linnaeus  
**Common Name** : Bull mouth helmet/Queen Shell  
**Listed in CITES** : No  
**Distribution** : A&N and Lakshadweep.

It is popularly known as Pineapple shell or Queen shell, usually seen to be sold as handicraft article.



**Scientific Name** : *Hippopus hippopus* (Linnaeus)  
**Common Name** : Fluted Gaint Clam/ Horse's Hoof  
**Listed in CITES** : Appendix-II  
**Distribution** : A&N, found in shallow water coral reefs.

Apart from used as edible item, this species has industrial application also.



**Scientific Name** : *Nautilus pompilius* Linnaeus  
**Common Name** : Chambered Nautilus  
**Listed in CITES** : No  
**Distribution** : A&N, A.P, T.N.& Maharashtra.

This is the only Cephalopod with true external shell. The shell is often made into different kinds of handicrafts, sold as such or polished form.



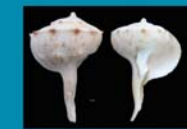
**Scientific Name** : *Tridacna maxima* Roeding  
**Common Name** : Elongated Gaint Clam  
**Listed in CITES** : Appendix-II  
**Distribution** : A&N and Lakshadweep, found in shallow water coral reefs.

Population of this species is endangered. Gaint Clams are the constituents of pottery glazes and also used in making floor tiles.



**Scientific Name** : *Tridacna squamosa* Lamarck  
**Common Name** : Fluted Gaint Clam  
**Listed in CITES** : Appendix-II  
**Distribution** : A&N, Lakshadweep, found in shallow water coral reefs.

Gaint Clams are the constituents of pottery glazes and also used in making floor tiles.



**Scientific Name** : *Tudicla spirillus* (Linnaeus)  
**Common Name** : Spiral Tudicla  
**Listed in CITES** : No  
**Distribution** : Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Endemic to Bay of Bengal.

This species is traded as decorative seashell.

Species included in the Schedule IV of IWLPA



**Scientific Name** : *Cypraea limacina* Lamarck  
**Common Name** : Limacina Cowrie  
**Listed in CITES** : No  
**Distribution** : Gulf of Mannar.

This species is used for cowries viz. currency, charms, ornaments, purses, belts, decoration pieces, traditional medicines etc.



**Scientific Name** : *Cypraea mappa* Linnaeus  
**Common Name** : Map Cowrie  
**Listed in CITES** : No  
**Distribution** : A&N, found in shallow coral reefs.

This species is used for cowries as currency, charms, ornaments, medicine and has linked with various superstitions.



**Scientific Name** : *Cypraea talpa* Linnaeus  
**Common Name** : Mole Cowrie  
**Listed in CITES** : No  
**Distribution** : A&N, found in coral reef area

It is found rare and used as currency, ornament, handicrafts, handbags, belt etc.



**Scientific Name** : *Fasciolaria trapezium* Linnaeus  
**Common Name** : Trapezium Conch  
**Listed in CITES** : No  
**Distribution** : A&N, Tamil Nadu and W.B.

A common sea shell trade item along the coast of India, sold as handicraft item.



**Scientific Name** : *Harpulinia arausiaca* (Lightfoot)  
**Common Name** : Vexillate volute/  
Gold Banded volute  
**Listed in CITES** : No  
**Distribution** : Gulf of Mannar.

This species is used as decorative item viz. used in curtains, wall hangings, key rings, mirror etc.



**Scientific Name** : *Lambis chiragra* (Linnaeus)  
**Common Name** : Chiragra Spider Conch  
**Listed in CITES** : No  
**Distribution** : A&N and Lakshadweep, Coral reef area.

Beside industrial use in lime production, it is traded for decorative items.



**Scientific Name** : *Lambis chiragra arthritica* Reoding  
**Common Name** : Arthritic Spider Conch  
**Listed in CITES** : No  
**Distribution** : A&N and Lakshadweep, Coral reef area.

Beside industrial use in lime production, it is traded for decorative item.



**Scientific Name** : *Lambis crocata* (Link) / *Lambis crocea*  
**Common Name** : Orange Spider Conch  
**Listed in CITES** : No  
**Distribution** : A&N and Gulf of Mannar

Often sold as decorative seashells. Shell is used for lime industry also.



**Scientific Name** : *Lambis millepeda* (Linnaeus)  
**Common Name** : Milleped Spider Conch  
**Listed in CITES** : No  
**Distribution** : A&N and Lakshadweep, Coral reef area.

Beside industrial use in lime production, it is traded for decorative item.



**Scientific Name** : *Lambis scorpius* (Linnaeus)  
**Common Name** : Scorpio Conch  
**Listed in CITES** : No  
**Distribution** : A&N and Lakshadweep, Coral reef area

Like other *Lambis* sp., beside industrial use in lime production, it is traded for decorative item.



**Scientific Name** : *Lambis truncata* (Humphrey)  
**Common Name** : Truncate Spider Conch  
**Listed in CITES** : No  
**Distribution** : A&N and Lakshadweep, Coral reef area.

Like other *Lambis* sp., beside industrial use in lime production, it is traded for decorative item.



**Scientific Name** : *Placuna placenta* Linnaeus  
**Common Name** : Windowpane Oyster  
**Listed in CITES** : No  
**Distribution** : A&N, Lakshadweep, Goa, Karnataka, W.B, Orissa and T.N.

The thin pearly shall has the appearance of mica. This used for screens, window, lampshade, ornaments, hangings, painting and other decorative purpose. It is a also source of lime.



**Scientific Name** : *Strombus plicatus sibbaldi* Sowerby  
**Common Name** : Sibbald's Conch/ Pegion Conch  
**Listed in CITES** : No  
**Distribution** : Gulf of Kachchh, Kerala, Bay of Bengal.

This species is used for decoration pieces, key rings, carved to make porcelain.



**Scientific Name** : *Trochus niloticus* Linnaeus  
**Common Name** : Top-Shell/ Commercial Trochus  
**Listed in CITES** : No  
**Distribution** : A & N, Shallow Coral reef area

A commercially exploited shell most for ornaments viz. pearl buttons, ear rings, pendants, necklace, bangles etc. Also used for decorative purpose.



**Scientific Name** : *Turbo marmoratus* Linnaeus  
**Common Name** : Great Green Turban  
**Listed in CITES** : No  
**Distribution** : A & N, Shallow Coral reef area

The population of Turban shell is endangered. It is a commercially important species used for decorative items for its pearly shell shine.

For more information contact:

**Malacology Division,  
Zoological Survey of India  
Prani Vigyan Bhawan,  
M-Block, New Alipore,  
Kolkata – 700 053 (W.B.)**

E.mail: malacology.zsi@gmail.com  
Website: <http://www.zsi.gov.in>  
Telefax: 033-24006893(Director)  
EPABX: 033-24003925

Don't buy Protected Seashells,  
It is a punishable offence,  
Help Save them