

## Etymological history of some freshwater fishes of Bangladesh: A review

<sup>1</sup> Md. Hadiuzzaman, <sup>\*2</sup> Muhammad Forhad Ali, <sup>3</sup> M Ahsan Bin Habib

<sup>1</sup> Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Bangladesh

<sup>2</sup> Department of Aquaculture, Sheikh Fajilatunnesa Mujib Fisheries College, Melandah, Jamalpur, Bangladesh

<sup>3</sup> Department of Aquaculture, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh, Bangladesh

### Abstract

As Bangladesh is endowed with around 250 freshwater fish species, the etymological analysis of currently used fish scientific names may have interesting motifs in various scientific fields. It is very hard to find out the meanings of scientific names of fishes due to lack of recognized identifying books and literatures. Additionally, systematic nomenclature will be not recognized and understood without having a clear knowledge about the origin of a word. Though some of these words have been deformed and almost of them are far variants from the standard or original forms, etymology used for elucidating the origin of scientific names. Of all species presented in the available sources, 64 species were selected for this study. All names, including scientific (Greek and Latin), common and local names in Bengali dialects were etymologically analyzed. Thus, the study was considered one of the first works deals with the background history of binomial nomenclature of the concerned freshwater fish species.

**Keywords:** Bangladesh, etymological history, freshwater fish, scientific name

### Introduction

Etymology is the study of origin of a word and the chronological development of its meaning [1]. The origins of scientific name of some freshwater fishes, found in local markets of Bangladesh were illustrated in this paper. It is very important to learn how to get original sense of a word in order to gain understanding and put concepts into the proper context. It is obviously more important to know the scientific name and its meaning to have a clear conception about the species. Scientific names have two distinct parts, the genus part and the species part, which designed outstanding identity of the species. So, Etymology of fish's scientific name could help identify and dignify of the species concerned. The purpose of this paper was to review the history and recent progress in scientific name of freshwater fishes often found in internal fish markets of Bangladesh. The ultimate objective of the study was to create a platform for the readers and students so that they could form an idea about the background of fish scientific name.

### Methodology

Several sources like different books, published scientific papers, online dictionaries were reviewed for collecting data and information about the etymology used for describing the freshwater fishes of Bangladesh from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The freshwater fishes which were frequently found in the local market were considered for the study. The species were structured according to their related Order, Family and Genus alphabetically based on the systematic classification [2, 3, 4]. A literature survey was also conducted to gather relevant background information. All the reviewed sources were mentioned in the bibliography.

***Anguilla bengalensis* (Gray, 1831):** Latin *Anguis* refers to snake or serpent [5] and Latin *anguilla* means eel [12]. The genus probably named so because of its serpentine gesture. No remark on the origin of the specific epithet (*bengalensis*) is available. Probably, it would have been named after the type locality. It is locally known as Bamosh, Banehara [2, 3, 4] and English name is Indian Mottled Eel, Long-finned (for long dorsal fin confluent with caudal fin) Eel [18].

***Xenentodon cancila* (Hamilton, 1822):** *Xenentodon* derived from two words, Gk. Xenos- strange and Gr. Odous- teeth [12], indicates its strange dentition (mouth is full of rows of sharp teeth [9]). It is commonly known as Kankila in the Gangetic provinces [9] and the specific epithet (*cancila*) is the Latinised local name. It is a member of Needle Fish, commonly known as Freshwater garfish [20]. Garfish is a member of long, slender fish with elongated beak-like jaws containing sharply pointed teeth [1]. The fish is called Kankila or Kakila in much of Bangladesh [2, 3, 4].

***Channa barca* (Hamilton, 1822):** Ancient Greek *Channa* means snapper, probably refers to the fish that snaps; makes a quick bite; comes into a place with a snap [5] attributes to the very quick movement pattern of the fish. Sanskrit Chana used to refer to chickpeas [1]. As the fish has scales on its skull, and hence resembles the germinating chickpea in reference to front look, the later one might also be appropriate. The word bark means substantial covering which is the rough skin of trees [1]. The species name *barca* probably the Latinised form of bark. The species name *barca* has been adopted so because of its skin resembles rough skin of trees. It is called barca snakehead in English, locally known as Pipla or Tila Shol [2, 3,

4]. Closely related synonym is *Ophiocephalus barca* (Hamilton, 1822): From the Gk. ophis-used to refer to a snake, serpent and kephale means head [5]. Hence, it is called snakehead, a freshwater fish with a broad, heavily scaled head and a long cylindrical body [1].

***C. marulius* (Hamilton, 1822):** The Latin word *merulus* derived from merlin [6], falcon color. As the fish coloration varies from slaty gray to light brown, the specific epithet *marulius* probably taken after the color pattern of the species. The fish reaches total length up to 183 cm [7]. So, the species is considered as Giant Snakehead [8], locally it is known as Gojar or Gojal [2, 3, 4].

***C. punctata* (Bloch, 1793):** Gk. Punctatus means marked with punctures, spots [5]. The species name is probably taken after the punctuated dark spots on the body. It is called Spotted Snakehead in English [9], locally known as Taki, Lata [2, 3, 4].

***C. striata* (Bloch, 1793):** Gk. 'striata' means stripped or banded [5]. The specific epithet *striata* has been adopted to indicate the white banded decoration covering lower half part of the species. It is called Banded Snakehead in English, locally called Shol [2, 3, 4].

***Ilisha megaloptera* (Swainson, 1839):** According to the Old Testament, Elisha mentioned as a miracle worker. The species name most probably considered so because of its alluring thyme flavor or amazing migratory capability (anadromous species [10]). Megaloptera comes from the Gk. words 'megalos' means large, and 'ptera' means wings [5]. This refers to the characteristically long anal fin present in the members under the species *megaloptera*. Its common name is Bigeye Ilisha [11] and local name is Choukka [2, 3, 4].

***Tenualosa ilisha* (Hamilton, 1822) or *Hilsa ilisha*:** *Tenualosa*-formed from Latin *tenuis* meaning thin [12] (indicates laterally compressed body) and *Alosa*-from Saxon Allis, old name of the European shad, to be compared with *Alosa alosa* (Becker, 1983), a type of herring fish [12]. A herring fish is distinguished by keel bones running along the ventral margin. According to the Old Testament, Elisha mentioned as a miracle worker. The species name most probably considered so because of its alluring thyme flavor (for oily and tender texture) or amazing migratory capability (anadromous species [10]). It is commonly known as River Shad, Hilsa Shad [11] and known as Ilish all over Bangladesh [2, 3, 4].

***Gudusia chapra* (Hamilton, 1822):** One of the synonyms of the species is *Clupea chapra* (Hamilton, 1822). *Clupeum* is a Latin word started with 'c' defines (indicates c like/convex structure) the word *clupeum* in English. The word *clupeum* denotes round/embossed shield, vaulted ceiling, like sky [6], indicates convex abdomen of the fish. Sanskrit *Gudus* means avid or voracious, most probably taken after the similarity with *clupea* abdomen. Another synonym of the species is *Alausa microlepis* (Valenciennes, 1847). Gk. *micro* means small or minor and *lepis* refers to scale of a fish [5]. In other sense, Sanskrit word *chapra* denotes short or small, probably

refers to the small size scales of the fish. It is commonly known as Indian River Shad [11]. Shad- herring like small, rather dry and bony fish that migrate from the sea to rivers to spawn [13]. It is known as Chapila or Khaira in much of Bangladesh [2, 3, 4].

***Setipinna taty* (Valenciennes, 1848):** *Setipinna*, the Hairfin anchovies, is a genus of anchovies [14]. Latin *septi* or *septem* means seven or seventh [6] (here denotes very long) and *pinna* means -a projecting body part [6] (such as a feather, wing, or fin). These fish derive their name from the long, filamentous extension of the pectoral fins that is found in most species. Latin *taty*-somewhat worn, shabby [6], Scottish-tatty means disordered by being twisted [5]. The species name is probably taken after its long hair-like twisted pectoral filaments. It is commonly known as Scaly Hairfin (scales present on dorsal and anal fin) Anchovy [11], locally called Teli Phasa [2, 3, 4].

***Botia dario* (Hamilton, 1822):** The regional Asian word *botia*, means warrior or soldier, referring to the large spine below each of the fish's eyes [5]. The common name, Clown Loach, Necktie Loach and Queen Loach comes from the fish's bright colors and stripes (many tropical fish with stripes that stand out are commonly called clown) as well as from its habit of 'entertaining' aquarium owners with strange habits, such as swimming upside down, or 'playing dead'. *Darios* are playful creatures, they like teasing other people. The species have teasing nag with other fish. It is locally known as Rani (Queen) fish [2, 3, 4].

***Lepidocephalichthys guntea* (Hamilton, 1822):** *Lepidocephalichthys*: Gk., *lepis*-to thresh out like scale [15] and this is why scabby and kephale to head and *ichthys* meaning fish [5]; *lepidoccephalichthys* means fish with scabby head. It is commonly known as Peppered (body covered with spots or stipples) Loach [16]. 'This loach has a rather grayish or yellowish body color with a paler belly. There is a light horizontal stripe running the length of the body with various sized blotches and specks above and below it. There are also as numerous dark specks on the dorsal and anal fin. All these splotching and speckling gives rise to a rather peppered looking fish, as its common name implies' [16]. Other common names it is known by are Guntea Loach. The species name *guntea* probably derived from *gunt*-a protruding sack of fat which extends from the lower abdomen to the upper genital area [15]. Locally it is called Gutum or Puiya [2, 3, 4].

***Amblypharyngodon microlepis* (Bleeker, 1854):** GK., *ambly*-darkness, *pharyngx*-throat and *odous* means teeth [15]. The genus name *Amblypharyngodon* probably taken after the black pharyngeal teeth of the fish. GK. *mikros* meaning small and *lepis* meaning scale, denoting comparatively smaller size scales of the species concern. It is known as Indian Carplet, locally known as Moulongi [2, 3, 4].

***A. mola* (Hamilton, 1822):** *Mola*- any of several thin, silvery fishes of the family Molidae, of tropical and temperate seas. The fish specific name, *mola*, is Latin for "millstone", which the fish resembles because of its gray silvery color and rough texture [5]. It is known as Mola carplet, Pale Carplet, locally

called Mola, Moa and Maya <sup>[2, 3, 4]</sup>.

***Cirrhinus cirrhosus* (Bloch, 1793):** also *Cirrhinus mrigala*, also known as the mrigal <sup>[2, 3, 4]</sup> and the white carp, is a species of ray-finned fish in the carp family. The word cirrhinus derived from Latin, cir-to set in a circular pattern and rhinus-about snout or beak <sup>[6]</sup>, probably indicates semi-lunar snout of the fish. So, the genus name *Cirrhinus* attributes to the fish's distinct snout. Latin *cirrus* or *cirrhus* means yellowish-orange <sup>[6]</sup>, denotes pectoral, pelvic and anal fins tipped with orange color during breeding season.

***Esomus danricus* (Hamilton, 1822):** A Danionin, known as the Indian Flying Barb, is one of the species known as Flying Barbs owing to their extremely long barbels. Danricus was discovered as long ago as 1822 by Hamilton. However, lacking the spectacular beauty of the Danios it is rarely seen in the aquarist hobby. Endemic to India in the Himalayan foothills, it is found in the same localities as *Danio rerio* and *Danio dangila*. This fish has an exceptional ability for jumping; hence its name is flying barb. It is locally known as Darkina (single striped) <sup>[2, 3, 4]</sup>.

***Gibelion catla* (Hamilton, 1822):** Giebel-German-from Middle High German gibel meaning gable, but also head, skull <sup>[5]</sup>, hence probably a name for someone with remarkably large skull or head. The genus name *Gibelion* probably taken after the exceptionally large skull of the fish. The species name *catla* derived from a vernacular Bengali name for this species <sup>[2, 3, 4]</sup>. It is the sole species of the genus *Gibelion*.

***Labeo bata* (Hamilton, 1822):** Latin *Labeo* means one with lips <sup>[6]</sup> and Gk. *Labeo* means-one with large lips <sup>[5]</sup>. The genus name *Labeo* probably came from remarkably thick, fleshy lips in members of this genus. The word *bata* refers to young, juvenile <sup>[17]</sup>. The species members resemble younger individuals of other species under the genus. In other sense, *bata* refers to beaten <sup>[17]</sup>, so the species name *bata* would have been taken as compact and compressed body (for densely oriented scales compare to related species). It is called Bata *Labeo* in English, locally known as Bata, Bhangana Bata <sup>[2, 3, 4]</sup>.

***L. calbasu* (Hamilton, 1822):** One of the major species under the genus *Labeo*. The species name *calbasu* probably derived from the Bengali word *Kalbosu*, a vernacular Bengali name for the species, refers to black fish, locally known as kalibaush <sup>[2, 3, 4]</sup>. The fish is also known as Black Rohu in some regions of India and Bangladesh for its black body color <sup>[18]</sup>. Closely related synonym is *Cyprinus micropogon*. Greek *mikros* means small and *pogon* refers to beard <sup>[5]</sup>, denotes short and stout beard of the species concern. It is called Orange Fin *Labeo* in English <sup>[18]</sup>.

***L. rohita* (Hamilton, 1822):** The Sanskrit word *rohit* signifies the color red <sup>[19]</sup>. Probably the red color of pectoral, pelvic and anal fins of rohu tempted the author to take the name *rohita*. Closely related synonym is *Cyprinus rohita*. Latin *Cyprinus* would have been derived from Gr. *Kypris* Aphrodite, goddess of Love, because of its lucrative physical look during spawning season, beloved by the visitors at first look. It is

called Rohu in English, locally known as Rui <sup>[2, 3, 4]</sup>.

***Puntius chola* (Hamilton, 1822):** *Puntius*: Latin *punctum* means point, the point of the sword <sup>[6]</sup>, probably refers to the fish's pointed snout or pointed dorsal spine. The Latin word *chola* indicates women, like male (hard and harsh), with peculiar dress up <sup>[6]</sup>. The tough and tight skin and black spot on caudal peduncle of *chola punti* probably tempted the author to take the name. It is known as Chola barb, Swamp Barb in English, locally called Chola Punti or Jati (typical) Punti <sup>[2, 3, 4]</sup>.

***P. conchoni* (Hamilton, 1822):** The species named so because of its body shot with golden color. It is locally called Kanchan Pungti. The Bengali word *Kanchan* means golden. It is called Rosy Barb, Red Barb in English <sup>[2, 3, 4]</sup>.

***P. sarana* (Hamilton, 1822):** The name *Puntius* comes from *pungti*, a Bengali term for small cyprinids (length up to 25 cm or 10 inches). Tyrian word *sarranus* for anything noble or splendid. The species *sarrana* has handsome length and width proportion. Moreover, Olive green shadow on its upper back portion gives it a splendid look. So, it is supposed as the best one Pungti species (among the native ones). For this the species is called sarana. It is called Olive Barb in English, locally called Sarpunti or Rajpunti <sup>[2, 3, 4]</sup> (the King of barbs).

***P. sophore* (Hamilton, 1822):** *Sophore* in Sanskrit means a beautiful little fish, very common in ponds. It reaches up to 13 cm in adult <sup>[2, 3, 4]</sup>. The root of the specific name is adhered to Sanskrit word *Safhara* denotes scale of a fish <sup>[19]</sup>. The fish resembles to carp in reference to its scales. Closely related synonym of the species is *Puntius stigma* (Valenciennes, 1844). *Stigma* means mark made on skin by burning with a hot iron. Latin, Greek *stigma* means to mark with tattoo, or brand <sup>[5]</sup>. The species named so because of the two distinct and apparent dense pigmentations present on the base of dorsal fin and caudal peduncle. Operculum shot with golden spot. Anal and pelvic fins become brick red in mature males. It is called Spotfin Swamp Barb in English, locally called Safari Punti <sup>[2, 3, 4]</sup>.

***P. ticto* (Hamilton, 1822):** Related synonym of the species is *Puntius punctatus* (Day, 1865), locally called tit punti <sup>[2, 3, 4]</sup>. The species have been named so because of the punctuated mark (black stripe or line) on the dorsal fin. The fish has two black spots on its body; the smaller one near the commencement of the lateral line above the pectoral fin on scale 3 and a larger one behind the base of anal fin involving scales 18-21 <sup>[2, 3, 4]</sup> (Rahaman, 2005 and Siddiqui *et al.*, 2007). It is commonly known as Ticto Barb <sup>[2, 3, 4]</sup>.

***Notopterus chitala* (Hamilton, 1822):** The name is from Gk. *noton* means back and *pteron* means fin, wing <sup>[12]</sup>. It is known as Featherbacks or Clown knife fish. Featherbacks have slender, elongated compressed bodies, accompanied with small caudal fin merged with the anal fin which runs length of the body, giving them a knife-like appearance. Generally, the dorsal fin is small and narrow, giving rise to the common name of Featherback. The species name probably taken from a

vernacular Bengali name Chital to indicate it's black spots or blotches onto posterior part of the body and disorderly arranged short stripes along dorso-lateral interface.

***Notopterus notopterus* (Pallas, 1769):** The species name *notopterus* comes after the typical (only featherlike fin on posterior back) characteristic of the fish (foli) concern. It is called Grey Featherback, locally known as Foli or Folui [2, 3, 4].

***Chanda nama* (Hamilton, 1822):** Sanskrit Chand means pleasing, or charming, and is based on the root *chad* which means esteemed to please, to seem good [19]. The genus named so because of its Moonlike color impression that has an allusion to compare with. The species name *nama* is from brand name, i.e., a typical Chanda fish.

***C. ranga* (Hamilton, 1822):** The species named *ranga* because of its freckles (a small patch of brown color impression into the skin, often becoming more pronounced through exposure to the sun [1]) and pale skin. *Chanda ranga* is transparent with silvery gloss on its body. Some ranga species has caudal fin or dorsal fin base red. The species name most probably would have been taken for this characteristic feature.

***Anabas testudineus* (Bloch, 1793):** *Anabas* is known as Climbing Perch. The word perch means to settle or rest in some elevated position, as if on a perch [15]. The Greek *Anabasis* and Latin *Anabas* denotes to climb up [6]. The climbing perch is able to use its spiny pectoral fins and operculum to move easily on land and even climb up out of ponds to reach a new habitat. Locally it is known as Koi [2, 3, 4]. Genus name *Anabas* would have been taken so because the fish have to migrate to the water surface periodically to take a breath. The origin of species name is uncertain, probably derived from the Latin word *testudineum* refers to-like a tortoise [6], intended to resemble the shape of the fish snout with that of tortoise.

***Apocryptes bato* (Hamilton, 1822):** Latin *Apo* means outside and *kryptes* means hidden [6], denotes the fish hiding nature into peripheral layer of sandy clay. *Bato* means a piece of anything that is round in shape, to throw oneself physically for attack or to escape [15]. The fish has all these distinguishing features. It is commonly known as gobi, locally called Chiring, Rutta [2, 3, 4].

***Glossogobius guiris* (Hamilton, 1822):** Goby fish-any small spiny-finned fish of the family Gobiidae, of brackish water or freshwater, having a large head, an elongated tapering body, and the pelvic fins modified as a sucker [1]. Greek *glossos* means tongue [5]. The genus name probably comes after that characteristic feature (tongue) of the members under the family Gobiidae. *Guiri* means pale visitors (non-valuable guest) [15]. The species name *guiris* denotes the isolating (to keep oneself apart) nature of the fish concern or would have taken so because of their fairer skin. It is called Tank Goby in English, locally known as Bele or Sadhu Bele [2, 3, 4].

***Macrogathus aculeatus* (Bloch, 1793):** Gk. makros means

great and gnathos means jaw [5], i.e., macrognathus refers to large size jaw (branchial chamber), and aculates denotes blotches [5]. The species name *aculeatus* probably taken to denote the black starlike spots or blotches on the base of dorsal fin of the fish. Locally it is called Tara (star marked) Baim [2, 3, 4].

***M. aral* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801):** Fish is marked with stars at the posterior base of dorsal fin, body marked with two broad, pale longitudinal bands extending to the caudal fin above and below lateral line, a single yellow stripe runs between them up to posterior end. For this it is locally called Holde Dora (yellow stripe) Tara Baim [2, 3, 4]. The word aral probably derived from ariel refers to windy or prompt. The species name aral is probably taken so because of the fish robust movement. It is commonly known as Single Stripe Eel.

***M. pancalus* (Hamilton, 1822):** To English Language Learners the word pancalus means covered by a bar or a set of bars [1]; having bands or stripes of different color. *M. pancalus* has numerous common names such as Striped Spiny Eel, Barred Spiny Eel (comes after the pattern of bar stripes spread over the body), Zig-Zag Eel (comes after movement gesture) and Yellow Fin Spiny Eel (comes after yellow color of dorsal, anal and caudal fin). Locally it is called Peto Baim [4, 5].

***Mastacembelus armatus* (Lacepede, 1800):** Mastacembelus-formed from Gk. mastax, hence mastakos bite, mouthful, bite with jaws and Gk. emballo to throw oneself into [12]. The genus name probably comes after the 'hiding into soft mud with mouthful bite' nature of the fish. The species name *armatus* means armed or equipped [5]. Anal spine is strong, usually piercing skin. Most probably the spiny dorsal fin and anal fin tempted the author to take the name by a specific epithet armatus. The fish skin resembles tire track impression. So, it is known as Tire-Track Spiny Eel, locally called Shal (dangerous for anal spine) Baim [2, 3, 4].

***M. pancalus* (Hamilton, 1822):** To English Language Learners the word pancalus means covered by a bar or a set of bars [1]; having bands or stripes of different color. The fish body is marked with a line stripes or bars running along the length. It is known as Barred Spiny Eel, locally called Guchi Baim or Turi (the smallest one) Baim [3, 5].

***Liza parsia* (Hamilton, 1822):** *Liza* means very beautiful for brightness like stars in the sky [15], here refers to a fish with a cylindrical body covered with very hard and shiny scales. The specific epithet *parsia* would have been taken from a vernacular Bengali word parshe. For golden spot on upper operculum it is commonly known as Goldspot Mullet and locally called Parse, Parse Bata [2, 3, 4].

***Mugil cephalus* (Linnaeus, 1758):** Latin *mugil* denotes grey mullet [6]. Mullet-Mulatto (Latin *mulus*) denotes a Child of a black person and a white person. Greyish black and off white body color combinely make a hybrid color make up of the fish. For this, its genus would have been named *Mugil*. GK. *kephale* means head. The specific epithet is probably taken after its unique type of flathead. One of the synonyms is *Mugil*

*lineatus* (Valenciennes, 1836). GK. *lineatus* means striped. Hence, it is known as Striped Mullet or Flathead Grey Mullet, locally called Mugil Bhangon or Vangan Bata [2, 3, 4].

***Rhinomugil corsula* (Hamilton, 1822):** Latin *rhino* means about snout or beak [6], probably indicating very distinguishing feature (mouth is set beneath the snout) and *mulatto* denotes half black half white [15], probably indicating body color complexion of the fish, tempted the author to take the genus name *rhinomugil*. The specific epithet *corsula* would have been taken from a vernacular Bengali word *Khorsula*. It is known as *Corsula* Mullet, locally called *Khorsula* or *Khalla* fish [2, 3, 4].

***Nandus nandus* (Hamilton, 1822):** American flightless birds, under the genus *Rhea*, are conventionally called *nandu* [1]. The genus name *Nandus* probably taken so because of the apparent motionless attitude of the fish even into a trouble. This exclusive character probably tempted the author to take the species name as *nandus*. It is called Mottled *Nandus* in English, locally known as *Meni* (shyful) or *Bheda* (not clever) [2, 3, 4].

***Colisa fasciatus* (Blotch & Schneider, 1801):** The genus name *Colisa* is probably taken from a Bengali vernacular name *Kholisa*, i.e., to move with khalkhal-turbulent-sound into water. Fishes of this genus move with shoal and have a turbulent movement into shallow water within small space. Gk. *fasciatus* denotes banded [5]. The species name *fasciatus* probably derived from the dorso-ventral bluish-orange banded decoration throughout the body. Closely related synonym is *Trichogaster fasciatus*. *Trichogaster*: Gk., *thrix* means hair and *gaster* pertains to stomach [5], attributes to the threadlike pelvic fin of the fish. Anal fin is often decorated with red margin. It is known as *Striped Gourami*, locally called *Bara* (*Giant*) *Khalisha* [2, 3, 4].

***C. labiosus* (Day, 1877):** Latin *lebio* refers to lips [6]. The species name *labiosus* probably taken after the stout structure of lips of the concern species. Anal fin is often decorated with yellowish red margin. It is known as *Thick-Lipped Gourami*, locally called *Thontmota Khalisha* [2, 3, 4].

***C. lalia* (Hamilton, 1822):** The species name *lalia* is Latinized form of Bengali word *lal* denotes red, came from transverse red banded decoration throughout the body of the fish. Fins of the species members are decorated with scarlet spots or bars. It is known as *Dwarf Gourami*, locally called *Laal Khalisha* [2, 3, 4].

***C. sota* (Hamilton, 1822):** The smallest among the members under the genus *Colisa* /*Trichogaster*. The species name *sota* (small) probably taken after this characteristic feature. A broad black band runs from eye to caudal fin. Dull green and brownish body color makes a sunset color impression. So, it is called *Sunset Gourami*, locally known as *Chuna Khalisa* or *Boicha* [2, 3, 4].

***Polynemus paradiseus* (Linnaeus, 1758):** Gk., *poly* means a lot of and *nema* refers to filament [5]. The genus name has

taken so because of the fish numerous (7-8 in number) pectoral filamentous rays (very long, twice the body length). The long free pectoral rays have obtained for it the appellation of *Paradise-fish* as the overall external look of the fish resembles long bearded saint or *dorbesh*. It is commonly called *Paradise Threadfin* and locally called *Taposi*, *Tapse*, *Bairagi* [2, 3, 4].

***Cynoglossus cynoglossus* (Hamilton, 1822):** Gk. *cyon* or *cynos* means dog and *glossa* means tongue [5]. The species named so because of its physical appearance resembles dog's tongue shape. It is also known as *Cynoglossus bengalensis*. It is commonly known as *Bengal tongue sole*, *Gangetic tongue sole* and locally called *Kukur Jeeb* [2, 3, 4].

***Johnius coiter* (Hamilton, 1822):** The word *john* means to be gracious, refers to the gracious, innocent impression of the fish. *Coiter* muscle means corrugators muscle or wrinkler muscle of eyebrow [1], probably indicates corrugated skin of the fish that resembles the skin of an aged person. It is commonly known as *Coitor Croaker*- a fish in the family *Sciaenidae*, known for the throbbing sounds (like frog) they make. Locally it is called *Vola*, *Poa* or *Koitor* [2, 3, 4].

***Mystus bleekeri* (Day, 1877):** *Mystus* was first proposed by *Belon* in 1553 to describe all fish with whiskers [12] (usually 4 pairs). This group of fish is also known as *whiskered fish*. In other sense, the word *Mystus* is from *Mystax*-refers to whiskered [12] (hair on the upper lip). It is assumable that, the genus name was proposed to indicate the strong serrated pectoral spine (Serrated-having a saw-toothed edge or margin notched with tooth like projection [1]). In fact, both criteria are equally important to identify a member under the genus *Mystus*. The word *bleak* refers to shining white [5]. The species name *bleekeri* probably comes from pale-gloomy body color of the fish. It is called *Day's catfish*, locally known as *Gulsa Tengra* [2, 3, 4].

***M. cavasius* (Hamilton, 1822):** Latin *cave* a mean hollow [6], indicates the species has eyeball sunken into eye-socket or most probably denotes median longitudinal groove on head reaches to the base of occipital process. The specific epithet 'cavasius' means marked with cave or groove. It is called *Gangetic Mystus*, locally known as *Kabasi Tengra* [2, 3, 4].

***M. gulio* (Hamilton, 1822):** Latin *Giulio* associated with youthful [6] (red). The species name *gulio* probably comes from reddish pectoral, pelvic and anal fins' base of the fish. It is called *Long Whiskered Catfish*, locally known as *Nuna Tengra* [2, 3, 4].

***M. tengara* (Hamilton, 1822):** The name *tengara* is a Bengali or Assamese local name of the species. *hamilton* (1822) usually used local names in naming a fish. The species name *tengara* probably comes after the fish geographical location, *tengara*, refers to South East Asian [14]. Locally it is known as *Buzuri Tengra* or *Gete Tengra* [2, 3, 4]. The fish has distinguishing black scar behind the pectoral fin [2, 3, 4].

***M. vitatus* (Bloch, 1793):** The species name was derived from

the Latin *vittatus* means banded [5]. The species name is probably taken after the pattern of horizontal parallel banding decoration. It is called Striped Dwarf Catfish, locally known as Vitta Tengra [2, 3, 4].

***Clarias batrachus* (Linnaeus, 1758):** Gk., *chlaros* means lively [5], refers to the ability of the fish to live for a long time out of water without debility. The species name *batrachus* means frog or frog like [5]. The species *batrachus* resembles frog in reference to its pace on the floor. It is called Walking Catfish, as the fish, with the help of its spiny pectoral spine, can walk smoothly on the floor. Locally it is known as Magur [2, 3, 4].

***Heteropneustes fossilis* (Bloch, 1793):** Gk. *heteros* means other and *pneo* means to breathe [5]; in reference to the ability of the fish to utilize atmospheric oxygen. Latin, *fossilis* means which can be dug out [6]. So, the species name would have been come from the fish unique nature, ambiguous, to hide itself into shallow depth of bottom sledge or dark corner of the water body. Related synonym is *Saccobranchus microcephalus* (Gunther, 1864). The Greek word *sacco* means a sack, a bag and *branchus*- related to respiratory organ, gill [5]; pertaining to additional respiratory sack along with gill. Greek *mikros* means small and *kephale* refers to head or skull [5], denotes it's laterally compressed and dorsoventrally somewhat flattened skull. It is commonly known as Stinging Catfish (for poisonous pectoral spine), locally called Shing or Shingi [2, 3, 4].

***Pangasius pangasius* (Hamilton, 1822):** *Panga* means a broad heavy knife of E. Africa [15]. The *panga* boat is so called because it resembles the knife in shape. In other sense, *pangus* means legend, king, and master of all [15]. *Pangasius* is a genus of medium-large to very large shark catfishes native to fresh water in South and Southeast Asia [14]. The term genus name *pangasius* most probably have been taken after its very large body shape among freshwater catfishes, which resembles the *panga* boat, upper part spacious and lower half part compressed laterally like cutting edge of knife.

***Ailia coila* (Hamilton, 1822):** The word *aioli* refers to Latin *oleum* meaning oil [5]. The genus name *Ailia* probably refers to its oily glistening body. Synonym of *Ailia coila* is *Malapterus coila* (Hamilton, 1822). *Malapterus*: Gk. *malakos* means soft and *pteron* means fin, wings [5]. The specific epithet *coila* is Latinized form of *coil*-people often use it as a verb to mean to lay in rings or spirals [15]; indicates spiral lines running along upper half part of the fish body. Body being reticulated as bamboo leaf and decorated like eye shadow on black dorsal part, the fish is locally called Kajuli, Bashpata (Kajuli, bamboo leaf), and commonly known as Gangetic *Ailia* [2, 3, 4].

***A. punctata* (Day, 1871):** Gk. *punctatus* means marked with spots or blotches [5]. The specific epithet *punctata* have been taken for the large spot on the base of caudal fin. Body being reticulated as bamboo leaf, it is locally called Bashpata, Bamboo leaf, commonly known as Jamuna *Ailia* [2, 3, 4].

***Clupisoma garua* (Hamilton, 1822):** Latin, *clupea* denotes sardine, derived from *Clupeus*- shield [12]; and Greek *soma*

means body [5]. The genus name *Clupisoma* is taken as the fish body embossed like a shield, doubtless a reference to the scales covering the body of the fish [12]. The species name *garua* probably derived from *gerua* (yellowish orange) color fins. Its English name is *Garua Bacha*, *Gagra* and local name is *Ghaura*, *Garua Bacha* [2, 3, 4].

***Ompok bimaculatus* (Bloch, 1793):** Gk. words- *bi* means two and *aculates* means blotches or spots [5]. The species has two blotches; one onto caudal peduncle and another onto immediately at the base of pectoral fin. It is called Butter Catfish, locally known as *Boali Pabda* or *Kani Pabda* [2, 3, 4].

***O. pabda* (Hamilton, 1822) or *Wallago anastomus*:** Prefix *ana* denotes upward and *stoma* means mouth [5]. The species name '*anastomus*' is derived from the form of the beak, the mandibles separating from upper jaw so as to leave an interval, standing agape, between them, and come together again at the angles or anastomise, giving an upward mouth, at the tip. The word *Ompok*, alluring physical look, probably taken after the buxom physical appearance for oily and swallow goitre region. The species name '*pabda*' probably derived from a vernacular Bengali word. It is called *Pabda* Catfish, locally known as *Madhu Pabda* [2, 3, 4].

***Wallago attu* (Bloch & Schneider, 1801) or *W. macrostomus*:** The word *walagottha* refers to slimy hermaphrodites [15]. The genus name *Wallago* probably has been taken in reference to the fish naked and slimy body. Laterally compressed and naked large body structure of *boal* fish probably tempted the author to take the name. For that, it is also known as *helicopter catfish*. One of the synonyms of *attu* is *macrostomus*. Greek words- *macro*s means big, large and *stoma* means mouth [5]. Mouth aperture, extends over the posterior end of the eyes, of the species *Wallago attu* has the resemblance with that of *tra-chelipod* gastropods (*macrostomus*) having a very large mouth or aperture to the shell [5]. In English it is called *Freshwater Shark* for its voracious predatory nature, locally known as *Boal* [2, 3, 4].

***Monopterus cuchia* (Hamilton, 1822):** Gk. '*Monos*' means one, unique and *pteron* means fin [5]. *Monopterus cuchia* is a fish having unique type of fins. The genus name has been taken so because of its obvious deviation in morphology. No remark on the origin of the specific epithet *cuchia* is available. The specific epithet *cuchia* would have been derived from a Bengali vernacular name *Kunche*, refers to distinct deviation in habitat. It is locally called *Kuchia* and *Gangetic mud eel* or *Freshwater Mud Eel* in English [2, 3, 4].

***Tetraodon cutcutia* (Hamilton, 1822):** Gk. *tetra* means four and *odon* means teeth [5]. The genus name considered followed by distinct dentition. The Latin word *cutio* is related to the skin [6]. The species name *cutcutio* have been taken in reference to the special type of skin, thin outermost noncellular layer covering the upper part of the body. Its English name is *Ocellated pufferfish*, *Common Pufferfish* and local name is *Tepa*, *Potka* [2, 3, 4].

## Conclusion

A total of 64 fish species, usually found in native fish markets

of Bangladesh, have been discussed. In some cases, close related synonyms along with very useful scientific name have been considered to have a better clarification. There are so many freshwater fishes (more than 250 species) are believed still surviving. But many of them are rarely found in different parts of the country. Data and information were synthesized by analytical observation. Readers are requested to follow the references for further understanding.

## References

1. Oxford English Dictionary, Oxford University Press, London.
2. Rahman, AKA. Freshwater Fishes of Bangladesh, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Zoological Society of Bangladesh, Department of Zoology, University of Dhaka, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh, 2005, 394.
3. Siddiqui KU, Islam MA, Kabir SMH, Ahmed ATA, Rahman AKA, Haque EU, Ahmed ZU, Begum ZNT, Hassan MA, Khondhker M and Rahman MM (eds.). Encyclopedia of Flora and Fauna of Bangladesh, Vol. 23. Freshwater Fishes. Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, Dhaka, 2007, 300.
4. DoF. Freshwater Fishes of Bangladesh. Department of Fisheries (DoF), Bangladesh, 2014, 213.
5. Douglas, H. www.Online Etymology Dictionary, Custom logo Design by LogoBee.com, Web page design by Dan McCormack, 2001-2017.
6. Charlton TL and Charles S. A Latin Dictionary, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1879.
7. Shrestha, TK. Resource ecology of the Himalayan waters. Curriculum Development Centre, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal, 1990, 645.
8. www.seriouslyfish.com/species/channa-marulius
9. Talwar, PK and Jhingran AG. Inland fishes of India and adjacent countries. AA. Balkema, Rotterdam, 1991; 2.
10. Riede K. Global register of migratory species - from global to regional scales. Final Report of the R&D-Projekt 808 05 081. Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Bonn, Germany, 2004, 329.
11. Whitehead PJP. FAO Species Catalogue. Vol. 7. Clupeoid fishes of the world (suborder Clupeoidei). An annotated and illustrated catalogue of the herrings, sardines, pilchards, sprats, shads, anchovies and wolf-herrings. FAO Fish. Synop. Rome: FAO, 1985; 125(7/1):1-303.
12. Romero P. An Etymological Dictionary of Taxonomy, Madrid, 2002.
13. www.collinsdictionary.com
14. www.wikipedia.com/species/
15. www.urbandictionary.com
16. www.animal-world.com
17. www.wiktionary.org/wiki/bata
18. Talwar PK and Jhingran AJ. Inland Fishes of India and Adjacent Countries. Vols 1 & 2. Oxford and IBH publishing Co. Pvt Ltd., New Delhi, 1991.
19. *Spoken Sanskrit.de*Dictionary
20. Hamilton F. An Account of the fishes found in the river Ganges and its branches, Edinburgh & London, Fishes Ganges, 1822, 353.