

Assessment on diversity, distribution and conservation status of Indian freshwater pond mussel *Lamellidens* spp. from upper Brahmaputra basin of Assam

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ABSTRACT

A field survey was conducted in the flood plains of the upper Brahmaputra basin to assess the diversity and distribution of *Lamellidens* spp. Altogether four species of *Lamellidens*, categorized as Least Concerned of IUCN Redlist were recorded from the 17 sampling stations comprising small to large tributaries and wetlands covering a geographical area of approximately 3900 km². The recorded *Lamellidens phenchooganjensis* Preston, 1912 corresponds to new reports from the Brahmaputra basin, whereas *Lamellidens jenkinsianus* (Benson, 1862) was found to be unique and endemic to this region. Significant morphometric differences were observed within the *Lamellidens* spp. In terms of richness and species distribution, significant trends of diversity were observed across the northern basin and southern basin of the study area. The outcome of the present work is based on first-hand information on the diversity, distribution and status of *Lamellidens* population of this region and inconsistencies between available data is still a major problem in establishing a database for the planning of species conservation in the region.

Key words: least concerned, endemic, unique, wetlands, conservation, database

