

The list of fish species found and identified at the Gurukula Botanical Sanctuary, and the aquatic environments they inhabit.

Fish have been caught and introduced from the nearby river or have naturally found their way into most of the water tanks, ponds and the aquarium in the sanctuary. The best place to observe several species is the aquarium. The fish seem to survive well in these water bodies, some even breed successfully. The river is heavily fished by local villagers and adivasi, thus few fish achieve full size and populations are being threatened. Those in the sanctuary will not end up on the dinner plate, are useful in controlling the mosquito population (certain species feed on the aquatic larvae), and are being conserved.

* The fish names, habitat preferences including their location in the sanctuary water bodies (ponds, tanks, aquariums etc...) and brief notes for observation and identification are provided on the tabulated list below.

NB: Not all species have been identified!

* The identification and nomenclature is used according to that of RJ Ranjit Daniels; 2002; Freshwater Fishes of Peninsular India; Universities Press India Private Ltd. Descriptive information has also been used from this text.

Species	Habitat Preference (/in sanctuary waters)	Notes
1. Rosy Barb <i>Puntius Conchoniis</i>	Shallow streams/ Aquarium	Small fish (5-8cm). Eyespot above anal fin. Dorsally greenish with sides and belly silvery. Males at breeding, pink sides bordered with green above
Long-snouted Barb <i>Puntius dorsalis</i>	Rivers, flowing water with pebble substrate/ Aquarium	Medium-sized (max.24cm). Golden- brown in colour, orange fins, large scales, and black lateral line. One pair of short barbels.
3. Ember Barb <i>Puntius fasciatus</i>	Shallow, fast-flowing, clear, forest streams/ All waters	Common small fish (4-5cm). Orange-pink and black tiger pattern in colour. Males at breeding, rosy-red body and fins.

4. Spotfin Barb <i>Puntius sophore</i>	Rivers/ Aquarium and tanks	Small fish (5-7cm). Silvery in colour. Black spot at base of dorsal fin and one at base of tail. Pink spot on gill cover. No barbels
Two-spot (Ticto) Barb <i>Puntius ticto</i>	Hill streams, still, shallow water with mud substrate./ Aquarium and tanks	Small fish (5-7cm). Silvery-greenish in colour. Spot behind gill cover & one on rear half of body. No barbels
Kooli Barb <i>Puntius vittatus</i>	Stream, ponds, flooded paddyfields/ Lower Crenita pond	Smallest barb (2.5-5cm). Silvery in colour with gold-bordered black spot near the base of tail
7. Malabar Baril <i>Barilius bakeri</i>	Hill streams/ Aquarium & garden ponds	Small-medium fish (up to 15cm). Silvery-blue in colour – c. 10 blue bars along sides. Yellowish fins, dorsal & anal with white & black trims. Endemic S. Western Ghats.
8. Zebra danio <i>Brachydanio rerio</i>	Hill streams & rice fields. Clear waters, sandy substrate./Most waters	Common, very small fish (3cm). Blue with 4 continuous lateral gold bands head to tail. Shoals close to surface.
9. Giant Danio <i>Danio aequipinnatus</i>	Streams & Rivers/ Aquarium	Small fish (6-8cm). Silvery, blue with 3 gold lateral bands head to tail. Bands broken into spots or bars close to gill cover. Orange-yellow fins.

10. Malabar Danio <i>Danio malabaricus</i>	Hill streams, W.Ghats/ Aquarium	Similar to above, but with stronger blue-gold colouration, deeper body & more pronounced interruption of lateral bands near gill cover.
Blackline Rasbora <i>Parluciosoma daniconius</i>	Hill streams/ Most waters	Small elongate fish (up to 10cm). Gold in colour with distinct gold- bordered black lateral line along length of body. Orange fins. No barbels.
12. Striped Dwarf Catfish <i>Mystus vittatus</i>	Streams and ponds, mud substrate/ Aquarium	Small catfish (max. 21cm). Silvery-gold on colour with dark lateral stripes. Four pairs of barbels
13. Stinging Catfish <i>Heteropneustes fossilis</i>	Rivers and ponds/ Aquarium	Medium-sized catfish (max. 30cm). Dark brown-black in colour. Four pairs of barbels
14. Malabar Killie <i>Aplocheilichthys lineatus</i>	Hill streams, tanks & ponds/ Crenita ponds and tanks	Small, elongate fish (max. 10cm). Distinct silver spot between eyes when seen from above and reddish fins. Surface swimmer
15. Marbled Spiny Eel <i>Mastacembelus armatus</i>	Hill rivers with sand, pebble, rock, substrate/ Aquarium	Long, slender fish (max. 75cm). Brown in colour with zig-zag markings. Prolonged snout & spiny back Dorsal & anal fins fused with tail.
Other fish present not fully identified: Loach spp. Snakehead spp.		