

## Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S2352-4855(16)30296-1  
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.rsma.2017.06.002>  
Reference: RSMA 257

To appear in: *Regional Studies in Marine Science*

Received date : 16 December 2016  
Revised date : 6 June 2017  
Accepted date : 6 June 2017

Please cite this article as: Kantharajan, G., Pandey, P.K., Krishnan, P., Deepak Samuel, V., Bharti, V.S., Purvaja, R., Molluscan diversity in the mangrove ecosystem of Mumbai, west coast of India. *Regional Studies in Marine Science* (2017), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.rsma.2017.06.002>

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# Molluscan diversity in the mangrove ecosystem of Mumbai, west coast of India

G. Kantharajan<sup>a</sup>, P. K. Pandey<sup>\*b</sup>, P. Krishnan<sup>c</sup>, V. Deepak Samuel<sup>c</sup>, V. S. Bharti<sup>a</sup>, R. Purvaja<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>) ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Panch Marg, Off Yari Road, Versova, Andheri (W), Mumbai 400061, India.

<sup>b</sup>) College of Fisheries, CAU (I), Lembucherra, Tripura 799210, India.

<sup>c</sup>) National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management MoEFCC, Koodal Building, Anna University Campus, Guindy, Chennai 600025, India.

\*Corresponding author: E-mail address: pkpandey@cife.edu.in

**Running title:** Molluscan diversity of Mumbai mangroves

## ABSTRACT

Ever increasing human population, habitat destruction and pollution along the Mumbai coast are some of the major threats to molluscan fauna. Molluscs form a major group of organisms that makes-up an integral part of mangrove ecosystems. A study, carried out in 8 mangrove areas of Mumbai, west coast of India, from August 2015 to May 2016, revealed a distribution of 61 molluscan species, represented by 46 gastropods, 14 bivalves and 1 polyplacophora. The number of species reported from the study is the second highest for the mangrove ecosystems of India, after Andaman and Nicobar Islands mangroves. The study also reports 2 new distributional records for gastropods, namely *Salinator fragilis* and *Auriculastra subula*. The molluscan diversity was the highest in the mangroves of Versova, north-western Mumbai. The molluscan species diversity from mangrove ecosystem along the Mumbai coast has been documented in detail in order to provide useful baseline data for supporting conservation management.

**Key words:** Conservation; Gastropods; Mangrove molluscs; Mumbai

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