

International Conference on  
**Aquaculture & Fisheries**  
July 20-22, 2015 Brisbane, Australia

**Distribution of putative dopaminergic neurons and identification of D2 receptors in the brain of freshwater Murrel, *Channa Punctatus***

**Shweta Dhindhwal**  
University of Delhi, India

Dopamine is an essential neurotransmitter in the central nervous system of all vertebrates and plays an important role in many processes such as motor function, learning and behavior, and sensory activity. One of the important functions of dopamine is release of pituitary hormones. It is synthesized from the amino acid tyrosine. Two types of dopamine receptors, D1-like and D2-like, have been reported in fish. The dopamine containing neurons are located in the olfactory bulbs, the ventral regions of the pre-optic area and tuberal hypothalamus. Distribution of the dopaminergic system has not been studied in the murrel, *Channa punctatus*. The present study deals with identification of D2 receptors in the brain of murrel. A phylogenetic tree has been constructed using partial sequence of D2 receptor. Distribution of putative dopaminergic neurons in the brain has been investigated. Also formalin induced hypertrophy of neurosecretory cells in murrel has been studied.

**Biography**

Shweta Dhindhwal is a Junior Research Fellow at Zoology Department, University of Delhi. She obtained her Bachelor's and Master's degree in Zoology from Hindu College, University of Delhi. She earned her M.Phil degree in Fish Endocrinology from Zoology Department, University of Delhi, where she worked on Dopaminergic system in the brain of the freshwater murrel, *Channa punctatus*. She has qualified Joint CSIR-UGC Test for Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) and Eligibility for Lectureship (NET) in Life Sciences with an all India Rank-64. She has a special interest in characterization and distribution of Dopaminergic System in the Brain of Fish, role of dopamine in Reproduction and its regulation via steroidal feedback.

[shwetadhindhwal.sd@gmail.com](mailto:shwetadhindhwal.sd@gmail.com)

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