

**DISTRIBUTION OF FISH SPECIES IN THE MAHAWELI RIVER SYSTEM
IN KANDY DISTRICT**

by

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Distribution of fish species in the Mahaweli river system in Kandy district was studied by sampling forty sites in streams, reservoirs, irrigation canals, etc., in the district. Samples contained forty fish species, which included 35 indigenous and five exotic species (excluding regularly stocked species for fishery purposes). Nine endemic species, of which six are listed as threatened species by the IUCN, were present in the samples. Habitats and the range of distribution of each species within the district, as well as important ecological parameters of water in the sampling sites, are discussed.