

RISE OF THE *Danio* AS A BIOMEDICAL MODEL: A REVIEW**Deeptimayi Dash and Pradip Kumar Prusty**

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INTRODUCTION

The name *Danio* is derived from the Hindi word Dhan which means paddy. The use of zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) as a model organism began in the 1960s. The name Zebrafish comes from the blue stripes that run horizontally on each side of their bodies. Zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) are small, tropical freshwater fish that are part of the minnow family.

Danio rerio was first described by Francis Hamilton, a surgeon with the British East India Company stationed principally in West Bengal at the beginning of the nineteenth century. He published an account of the fishes found in the river Ganges and its branches in 1822 that included ten *Danio* species.

They are popular aquarium fish as they are robust and hardy, as well as pretty on the eyes. They are often the most abundant fish in the waters they inhabit. They are native to South Asia (Nepal, India, etc).

Fig 1- Zebrafish (*Danio rerio*)Fig 2- Zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) in a watch glass**Classification of zebrafish (*Danio rerio*)**

- Kingdom: Animalia
- Phylum: Chordata
- Class: Teleostei
- Subclass: Actinopterygii
- Order: Cypriniformes