

Updating checklist of fishes of Al-Hawizeh marsh, Southern Iraq until 2018

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A R T I C L E I N F O		A B S T R A C T
Received	1 May 2024	A total of 24 species were recorded in Al-Hawizeh marsh during from June 2004 to Novmber 2018, belonging to 11 families and 22 genera, including 16 native species and (8) alien species, of which 17 species were recorded in the first study (2008) and 16, 13, 15, and 19 species were in the second, third, fourth and fifth studies (2019) respectively, Cyprinidae family recorded the highest number with nine species. Eleven common species were recorded between the studies. The cluster analysis results of the species composition in the Al-Hawizeh marsh using the Jaccard Similarity Index showed three main groups. The highest similarity percentage was among the first and second studies, which amounted to 88.2, and the lowest was between the fourth and fifth studies, which amounted to 50.0.
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1. Introduction

The Iraqi marshes, which have an area twice the size of Florida's Everglades, are the largest wetlands in southwest Asia [1,2]. Southwest Asia's Mesopotamian marshes are divided into three major regions: The northern Al-Hawizeh, the southern Al-Hammar, and the Central Marshes are all rich in biodiversity and natural resources. [3,4].

Several studies have been done on the fish assemblage at Al-Hawizeh marsh, including [5], who characterized the fish assemblage three years after restoration, and [6], who studied the fish assemblage from Al-Hawizeh marsh in the Al-Saffia sanctuary. [7]. investigated the fish assemblage composition in the Al-Hawizeh marsh (Um-Al-Niaj site) [7,8]. they noted that the Cyprinidae, represented by 8 species, was the predominant family. In addition, from the Al-Hawizeh, Suq Al-Shuyuakh, and East Al-Hammar marshes, [6] found seven marine fish species in Al-Hawizeh marsh, in addition to 18 freshwater fish species. In a study conducted in the Al-Hawizeh marsh between 2005 and 2006, [8] tested 15 species, 11 of which were native and 4 foreign species. After being added to the World Heritage List, Al-Huwaizah Marsh underwent what is thought to be the first investigation into the nature of fish assemblage, according to [9]. This study aims to develop a definitive list of fish species in the Al-Hawizeh Marsh from 2004 to 2018.

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