

Studies on the Mammalian diversity of Kanha National Park, Madhya Pradesh, India

Gaurav Sharma

Zoological Survey of India, High Altitude Regional Centre, Saproon, Solan, (Himachal Pradesh), INDIA.

(Corresponding author: Gaurav Sharma)

(Received 14 August, 2017, Accepted 21 October, 2017)

(Published by Research Trend, Website: www.researchtrend.net)

ABSTRACT: The present study has been conducted to study mammalian diversity in Kanha National Park, Madhya Pradesh during 2015-16. About 28 species belongs to 14 families and 06 orders of Mammals recorded from the study site during study period including Hard Ground Barasingha or Swamp Deer, *Rucervus duvaucelii branderi* Pocock, 1943.

Key words: Mammals, diversity, Kanha National Park, M.P.

INTRODUCTION

Kanha National Park is one of the tiger reserves of India and the largest national park of Madhya Pradesh state in India. It was created on 01 June, 1955 and in 1973 was made the Kanha Tiger Reserve. Kanha Tiger Reserve has species of tiger, leopards, wild dogs, wild cats, foxes, jackals *etc.* Among the deer species, Swamp Deer or Hard Ground Barasingha, *Rucervus duvaucelii branderi* Pocock, 1943 is pride of the Kanha National Park. The lush sal and bamboo forests, grassy meadows and ravines of Kanha provided inspiration to Rudyard Kipling for his famous novel, *Jungle Book*. The studies were conducted on different aspects earlier by different workers in the Kanha National Park (Alfred *et al.*, 2006; Anon., 1995; Nayak & Shukla, 2011; Sharma *et al.*, 2015). The present study was carried out to provide the diversity of mammalian species except small mammals recorded in the study area.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Kanha National Park to study the diversity of mammalian species during 2015-2016. Kanha National park stretches over an area of 940 km² in the two districts Mandla and Balaghat of Madhya Pradesh. Together with a surrounding buffer zone of 1,067 km² and the neighboring 110 km² Phens Sanctuary it forms the Kanha Tiger Reserve. The mammalian species were recorded in the field by using Binocular and Nikon D7000 DSLR Camera with Telelens attachment 80-400mm. The identification from pugmark of mammals and information gathered from published literature, interaction with field guides, forest department and from local peoples were also recorded. As the studies conducted on forest department permit with hired Gypsy and movement on ground inside the study area is not permitted, hence small mammals were not recorded during study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

About 28 species belongs to 14 families and 06 orders of Mammals recorded from the study site during study period including Hard Ground Barasingha or Swamp Deer, *Rucervus duvaucelii branderi* Pocock, 1943. The Hard Ground Barasingha inhabits grassy areas in moist pockets and never moves far from water and species adapted itself to the hard ground conditions of central India. The Hard Ground Barasingha peacefully interact with Chital and both commonly utilize the grassland (Nayak & Shukla, 2011). The systematic accounts of recorded 28 species of mammal with their Conservation status is given in Table 1.

A glimpse of habitats, field study and Mammals recorded at Kanha National Park



Table 1: Mammals of Kanha National Park, M.P. with their Conservation Status.

Sl. No.	Species/Sub-species (Scientific and Common Names)	Conservation Status		
		IUCN (Red list)	IW(P)A (Schedule)	CITES (Appendix)
I. Order: Primates				
1. Family: CERCOPITHECIDAE				
1.	Macaca mulatta (Zimmermann, 1780), Rhesus Macaque	LC	II	II
2.	Semnopithecus entellus (Dufresne, 1797), Northern Plains Gray	LC	II	I
II. Order: Rodentia				
2. Family: SCIURIDAE				
3.	Funambulus pennantii Wroughton, 1905 Northern Palm Squirrel	LC	IV	-
4.	Petaurista philippensis (Elliot, 1839), Indian Giant Flying Squirrel	LC	II	-
5.	Ratufa indica (Erxleben, 1777), Indian Giant Squirrel	LC	II	II
3. Family: HYSTRICIDAE				
6.	Hystrix indica Kerr, 1792, Indian Crested Porcupine	LC	IV	-
III. Order: Lagomorpha				
4. Family: LEPORIDAE				
7.	Lepus nigricollis F. Cuvier, 1823, Indian Hare	LC	IV	-
IV. Order: Chiroptera				
5. Family: PTEROPODIDAE				
8.	Pteropus giganteus (Brünnich, 1782), Indian Flying Fox	LC	V	II
V. Order: Carnivora				
6. Family: FELIDAE				
9.	Felis chaus Schreber, 1777, Jungle Cat	LC	II	II
10.	Panthera pardus (Linnaeus, 1758) Leopard	NT	-	I
11.	Panthera tigris (Linnaeus, 1758) Tiger	EN	I	I
7. Family: VIVERRIDAE				
12.	Paradoxurus hermaphroditus (Pallas, 1777), Asian Palm Civet	LC	II	III
8. Family: HERPESTIDAE				
13.	Herpestes edwardsii (É. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1818), Grey Mongoose	LC	II	III
14.	Herpestes smithii Gray, 1837 Ruddy Mongoose	LC	II	III
9. Family: HYAENIDAE				
15.	Hyaena hyaena (Linnaeus, 1758) Striped Hyena	NT	III	III
10. Family: CANIDAE				
16.	Canis aureus Linnaeus, 1758 Golden Jackal	LC	II	II
17.	Canis lupus Linnaeus, 1758, Grey Wolf	LC	-	I
18.	Cuon alpinus (Pallas, 1811), Dhole or Asiatic Wild Dog	EN	II	II
19.	Vulpes bengalensis (Shaw, 1800), Bengal Fox	LC	II	III
11. Family: URSIDAE				
20.	Melursus ursinus (Shaw, 1791), Sloth Bear	VU	I	I
VI. Order: Artiodactyla				
12. Family: SUIDAE				
21.	Sus scrofa Linnaeus, 1758, Wild Pig	LC	III	-
13. Family: CERVIDAE				
22.	Axis axis (Erxleben, 1777), Chital or Spotted Deer	LC	III	-
23.	Rucervus duvaucelii branderi Pocock, 1943, Hard Ground Barasingha/ Swamp Deer	VU	I	I
24.	Rusa unicolor (Kerr, 1792), Sambar	VU	III	-
25.	Muntiacus muntjak (Zimmermann, 1780), Indian Muntjac or Four-horned Antelope or Chousingha	LC	III	-
14. Family: BOVIDAE				
26.	Bos gaurus C.H. Smith, 1827, Gaur	VU	I	I
27.	Boselaphus tragocamelus (Pallas, 1766), Nilgai	LC	III	-
28.	Tetracerus quadricornis (de Blainville, 1816), Four-horned Antelope or Chousingha	VU	I	-

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author sincerely thanks to the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, India and to the Director and Forest Staff, Kanha National Park, M.P. for providing necessary permission and support during study period.

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