

RESEARCH SCHOLAR,  
BANDIPUR TIGER RESERVE,  
MYSORE, INDIA,  
July 7, 1978.

A. J. T. JOHNSINGH<sup>1</sup>

## REFERENCES

- ALLEN, H. (1960): The lonely tiger, London. London.  
ANDERSON, K. (1954): Nine man-eaters and one SCHALLER, G. B. (1972): The serengeti Lion—  
rogue. London. A study of Predator—Prey Relations. University of  
Chicago Press, Chicago.  
——— (1961): The call of the man-eater.

<sup>1</sup> Present address: Ayya Nadar Janaki Ammal  
College, Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu.

### 3. RANGE EXTENSION OF CRABEATING MONGOOSE IN BANGLADESH

Recently (May 1978) three of our postgraduate students of wildlife biology, a wildlife enthusiast and myself were at Bariadhala, near the coast of Bay of Bengal, in Ramgarh-Sitakundu Range of the Chittagong Forest Division in the south-eastern part of Bangladesh. We were looking for wild animals along the edges of a moist deciduous forest dominated by *Artocarpus chaplasha*, *Dipterocarpus turbinatus* etc., where the edges had an abundance of *Grewia*, *Sterculia*, *Wrightia*, *Cycas* etc. There was a pond (100 m by 30 m), covered almost entirely by Indian Lotus. On its southern bank there was a thicket (5 m by 30 m) having some plants of the neighbouring forest with an abundance of *Clerodendrum*. A bridle-path-cum-cattle trail separated the pond from the forest edge.

One of the students (Anwarul Islam) who was searching for a wounded bird which he shot found a mongoose-like animal closely watching from inside the thicket. We encircled the bush and tried to drive the animal out. After about half an hour of beating the jungle the animal came to the open area, between the bush and the pond and again entered the jungle. By that time I took two shots by my

Fujica ST701 35mm Camera with a 85-205 mm tele-zoom lens. Unfortunately the sky was overcast and the pictures are not sharp but they clearly show the distinguishing features of a Crabeating Mongoose *Herpestes urva* (Hodgson). The white patch running from the mouth to the shoulder on either side, its massive build and erectile body and tail hairs are quite conspicuous. The latter feature must have been a defensive posture or threat display.

Two species of Mongoose are known to occur in Bangladesh. They are the Common Mongoose *Herpestes edwardsi* (Geoffroy) and Small Indian Mongoose *H. auropunctatus* (Hodgson), both are common. But there appears to be no record of the Crabeating Mongoose occurring in this part of the sub-continent or of West Bengal. Blanford (1888), Pocock (1939-1941), Ellerman and Morrison-Scott (1951), have not included Bangladesh (or Bengal) that is erstwhile East Pakistan in the distributional range of the Crabeating Mongoose. Authors like Mountfort (1968) and Husain (1971) who have worked the Bangladesh fauna also did not include this species in their record. Prater (1971) states that it oc-

curs from Nepal to Assam, eastwards to Burma, south China and the northern part of Malaya. Therefore this is first record of the occurrence of *Herpestes urva* in Bangladesh. The distributional range of this species can now be extended from the neighbouring Assam and Burma to almost the coast of the Bay of Bengal across Chittagong.

DEPT. OF ZOOLOGY,  
UNIVERSITY OF DACCA,  
DACCA-2, BANGLADESH,  
May 29, 1978.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I thank the Forest Department officials, Mr. Shah Ali Imam, DFO, in particular, of Chittagong Forest Division for their various help; and to Messers Anwarul Islam, Saiful Hoque, Gazi Syed Asmat and Bablu for their assistance.

M. A. REZA KHAN

#### REFERENCES

BLANFORD, W. T. (1888): The fauna of British India, including Burma and Ceylon: Mammalia. London, Taylor and Francis.  
ELLERMAN, J. R. AND MORRISON-SCOTT, T. (1951): Checklist of Palaearctic and Indian Mammals 1759-1946. London, British Museum.  
HUSAIN, K. Z. (1974): An introduction to the wildlife of Bangladesh. Dacca, F. Ahamed.

MOUNTFORT, G. (1968): Our vanishing Jungle. London, Collins.  
POCOCK, R. I. (1939-1941): The fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma: Mammalia, 2 vols. 2nd edn. London, Taylor and Francis.  
PRATER, S. H. (1971): The book of Indian Animals. 3rd rev. edn., India, Bombay Natural History Society.

#### 4. AN INTERESTING BEHAVIOUR OF THREE NILGIRI TAHR (*HEMITRAGUS HYLOCRIUS* OGILBY 1833) KIDS

On 3rd March 1978 I accompanied Mr. John Joseph, Wild Life Warden, Mudumalai Wild Life Sanctuary and Mr. Radcliffe, Nilgiri Wild Life Association, to the Nilgiri Tahr country. Our intention was to look for poachers. The previous day, Mr. John Joseph had sent a reconnaissance party and our plan was to meet them beyond Bangitappal in the interior of the Tahr Country. After our rendezvous with the advance party we went to Nadgani to see the precipitous slope leading into the Nilambur valley of Kerala from where poachers, using a long cane as a rope, frequently came to steal cane and to shoot.

On the way to Nadgani we saw 13 adult  
RESEARCH SCHOLAR,  
BANDIPUR TIGER RESERVE,  
KARNATAKA, INDIA,  
July 19, 1978.

Tahr on a slope. Nearly a kilometre after the sighting, 3 Tahr kids with 4 - 5 cm long horns, probably separated from the parental herd, seeing us walking in a single file, ran towards us. Seeing them coming towards us we stood still on the bridle path and one of the three kids came as close as 6 metres to our Khaki clad troop. However after some time we started walking and the tahr instead of running away, occasionally bleated and followed us. Many a time the wind blew our scent to the kids and that also did not frighten them. The young which came close to us first mostly maintained a distance of 8 - 10 metres and followed us for well over a kilometre.

A. J. T. JOHNSINGH<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Present address: Ayya Nadar Janaki Ammal College, Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu.



Reza Khan, M A. 1980. "Range Extension of Crabeating Mongoose in Bangladesh." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 76, 153–154.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/187445>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/151513>

**Holding Institution**

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

**Sponsored by**

Biodiversity Heritage Library

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: In Copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/>

Rights: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions/>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.