

Kasimkhan J. Khan and Madhusudansinhji of Danta. I would like to place on record my deep sense of gratitude to all these gentlemen for having so kindly offered their voluntary services for the census work, particularly Shri

Digveerendrasinhji and Shri K. J. Khan who ungrudgingly spared their valuable time and took a lot of trouble at considerable personal discomfort to tour the forest areas extensively for the verification of pugmarks, etc.

ADDL. CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS,
(WILDLIFE), GUJARAT STATE,
VADODARA,
July 16, 1978.

M. A. RASHID

3. OCCURRENCE OF CIVETS IN THE CITY OF RANGOON (BURMA)

During the war period (January 1942—May 1945) as I returned home late one night from the Orient Club on the Royal Lakes (Kandawgyi), I saw in the beam of my car light a large Civet which ran across the road in the Golden Valley area.

Since 1954, I have been residing in the Inya Myaing area which adjoins the Golden Valley area. Inya Myaing is $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the General Post Office, Strand Road. Adjoining my compound on one side is The International Meditation Centre. The compound is over an acre in area with a number of large trees. I planted a number of plum and guava trees around my cottage. The branches of these trees drop on the roof of my cottage.

A few years after our arrival, a large Civet took up its abode under the roof of my cottage. It climbed to its abode by a guava tree. It came to its abode early in the morning and left its abode to feed at dusk. I saw the Civet resting on the roof on one or two occasions during the day. It had black stripes on the back, the long tail also being banded with black and could have been the banded palm civet (*Hemigalus derbyanus* Gray).

After the disappearance of this civet and a break of several years a pair of civets took

up their abode under the roof of my cottage. They climb to the roof and descend from the roof by a plum tree. They leave their abode to feed between 1900 and 2000 hrs. and return to the abode between 0400 and 0500 hrs. next morning. We know when they leave and when they return by the noise they make when moving about and by the noise caused by the branches of the plum tree striking the roof.

They were not much of a nuisance at first. But in 1977 they bred two young. They are a nuisance now from the cries of the young and from their urine. The urine drips through the ceiling down to the floor all over of my cottage and is not confined to one place only. It has a very strong odour and the floor has to be washed immediately before it dries up.

I have sat up at night fall as well as early in the morning on several occasions but have not been fortunate to observe any of the civets. On one occasion during the day I observed two tails dropping down through an aperture in the ceiling. The tails are not banded. The house maid, however, has been fortunate. She observed through a window in her dormitory the two adults coming down from the abode at night fall and returning to the abode early

next morning on a number of occasions. She observed also the family frolicking on the lawn during clear weather on more than one occasion. I showed her plates of civets. She picked out the plate of the Masked Palm Civet (*Paguma larvata larvata*).

The civets can either be the Tenasserim white whiskered Palm Civet *Paguma larvata janetta* Thomas or the Himalayan Palm Civet *Paguma larvata neglecta* Pocock.

The caretaker of the International Medi-

25, INYA MYAING ROAD,
UNIVERSITY P.O.,
RANGOON, BURMA,
July 24, 1978.

tation Centre informed me that there are two species of Civets in their Centre. On one occasion, the two fought and one was killed. He identified the dead civet as *Kyaung-na-ga*. Malayan Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus pallasi* Gray).

As regards the second species he said the civets he saw are similar to the Common Palm Civet or Toddy Cat (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*).

TUN YIN

4. AN INSTANCE OF WILD DOGS SCAVENGING ON A TIGER'S KILL

On the morning of 24th July 1978 Keechanna, my tribal boy, came across Jungle crows calling near a forest road two kilometres from Bandipur campus. As he walked along the road looking at the crows he failed to see a tiger lying 3 metres from the road. The tiger was also looking at the crows and so it did not see Keechanna who had gone as close as ten metres to it. When he saw the tiger he silently retreated for 60 metres climbed a small *Butea frondosa* tree and observed. Once the crows 15-20 in number alighted on the kill, a prime adult sambar stag with 48 cm velvet antlers, which was 8-10 metres from the tiger. The tiger with a whoop ran to, chased the crows and returned to its 'bed'. Tigers are intolerant of vultures also and on occasions they may even kill them (Schaller 1967).

I had gone to another part of my study area and when Keechanna informed me of this around 1000 hrs, in his company I hurried to the spot. When we were 50 metres

from the spot, at 10.30, I saw the tiger walking to the road from the kill. Hurriedly and silently we moved to the cover of the *Butea* tree trunk and watched. The tiger remained on the road for 3 minutes. Three times it flexed its tail arching over its back and once it lay down for a few seconds. At 1033 the tiger went back to the kill. We were in an active elephant country close to a much used pool. Since there was no suitable tree we left the place.

In the evening my wild dog pack was seen 500 metres from Bandipur but it eluded us and went to the kill. We did not hear any altercation between the tiger and the wild dog but repeated sambar belling was heard. Next morning around 1000 hrs we went to check the kill. This time we were accompanied by S. N. Prasad one of the students of Dr. Madhav Gadgil. The wild dogs had eaten a good amount of meat from the kill but on the wet muddy road there was no sign of either excited running or of struggle. The



Tun Yin, U. 1980. "Occurrence of Civets in the City of Rangoon (Burma)." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 76, 359–360.

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