

groups of primates of different genera. This close association appeared to be of mutual benefit, veering to commensalism (food sharing), a remarkable sight not observed by the authors in our experience of mammals.

This extremely remarkable co-operation in

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danger and 'commensalism'; and even in community feeding of babies between two different genera of primates, appears to be a unique phenomenon not hitherto recorded in literature.

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2. OBSERVATIONS ON BIRTH OF A MUSK DEER FAWN

A musk deer was born at the Musk Deer Farm, Kufri (Simla) on 19th June 1979.

The mother had been captured as a young fawn in Mashnoo forest of Sarahan Forest Range in Kotgarh Forest Division, Himachal Pradesh. It was said to have strayed into a flock of grazing sheep. The shepherd caught the fawn and brought it to Simla on 3-7-1977. It is believed that the fawn was about 15 days old at the time of capture. It was bottle fed on cow's milk for about 4 months and then gradually weaned to regular feed.

Mating was noticed during December 1978, when the mother was 1½ years old. The fawn was born to it in June 1979 (17-6-1979) at the age of 2 years. The female was observed to be dull in her movements and reluctant to take her normal feed for 3 days before fawning. The mother had mated with a young male deer of about 1½ years of age. The male deer was also from the local stock, captured on 4-8-1977 in Throach forests of Chopal Forest Division, Himachal Pradesh.

The animal keeper saw the fawn hidden under the grass bedding at 10 O'clock on the morning of 17-6-1979. The mother as usual had left the night shed for morning feeding in the open enclosure. Perhaps the fawn was

born sometimes during the night as the fawn was reported to be dry and clean. The enclosure was also clean.

The fawn was shy and alert but made no attempts to run away.

The fawn was grey in colour having a soft, furry body with long hair. It had a whitish-light golden streak about 3.5 cm on the back, running from shoulder to the back and other thin white streaks on either side running parallel to it. Whitish under the throat extending to the belly. In proportion to the body it appeared to have comparatively long ears and looked more like a 'Mouse deer' with long ears.

Some measurements of the fawn taken on 19-6-1979 (after 54 hours of birth) were as under:

Total weight :	1 kg
Length: (total length tip of tail to tip of nose)	37 cm
Height at shoulder:	25 cm
Girth at Chest:	24 cm

The mother was observed suckling the fawn twice during the period 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The fawn was also fed once a day artificially with bottle milk.

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3. OCCURRENCE OF THE LARGE BROWN FLYING SQUIRREL AND MOUSE DEER NEAR UDAIPUR, RAJASTHAN

The Large Brown Flying Squirrel (*Petaurista petaurista philippensis*) and the Mouse Deer (*Tragulus meminna*) have not been reported from Rajasthan so far (Ellerman & Morrison-Scott 1951, Prater 1980). Recently I saw the large Brown Flying Squirrel and the Mouse Deer in the teak dominated, dry deciduous forests of Dharyavad (c 24° 4' N, 74°

24'E) near Udaipur.

I have seen the Flying Squirrels in the jungles of Jharol, Gogunda and Kotra Tehsils of Udaipur also. In the early thirties my father shot two Mouse deer in the jungles of Jharol (c 24°N, 73°E). The local name of Mouse deer is 'Phonkra'. The forest in these areas are Tropical dry deciduous Miscellaneous Forests.

41, PANCHWATI,
UDAIPUR-313 001,
RAJASTHAN,
October 9, 1980.

RAZA H. TEHSIN

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4. OBSERVATIONS ON THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF HAIRY-FOOTED GERBIL, *GERBILLUS GLEADOWI* MURRAY, IN THE INDIAN DESERT

According to Prakash (1967), *G. gleadowi* is distributed in the arid belt of Jaisalmer, Gadra Road, Jodhpur and is more common in Gadra Road sector. Some more information has been added to literature by Prakash (1975) on this rodent and in this communication, we are reporting our observations on the rodent when it invaded the *khariif* crop fields in enormous numbers.

An explosion of the population of this rodent occurred at the onset of the monsoon in 1971, in Sanchole tehsil of Jalore district, whole of Barmer district, parts of Shergarh and Phalodi tehsils of Jodhpur district and Pokaran tehsil of Jaisalmer district when the following investigations/observations were made on this rodent.

The local name of the rodent is *chotti ratod*



Jain, M S. 1981. "Observations on Birth of a Musk Deer Fawn." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 77, 497–498.

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