

- (g) Are there any other advantages or disadvantages of wild blood coming into a domestic herd? If so, what are they? And do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages, or vice versa?

It is suggested that, with the approval of the Conservators of Forests, all reports collected through personnel of the Forest Department should be sent to the respective Divisional Forest Officers, copy to Mr. E. P. Gee of Doyang T.E., Oating P.O., Assam, who will be only too pleased to compile all information thus received.

DOYANG TEA ESTATE,
OATING P.O.,
ASSAM,
April 25, 1953.

E. P. GEE.

6. CANNIBALISM IN HEDGEHOGS

The hedgehogs, *Hemiechinus auritus collaris* Gray and Hardwicke, and *Paraechinus micropus* Blyth are found in abundance in this semi-arid region of Rajasthan. During my studies on their embryology I have collected a large number of them. In the laboratory I keep them in wooden cages of large size, in which a trial has been made to provide them with more or less natural conditions. The cages are kept in well ventilated rooms where plenty of air and light can be had.

In August-September 1952, when their breeding season was over the females were caught from their respective burrows along with their young ones. Many of the latter were in the 'closed eye' and suckling stage. But they possessed a remarkable power of rolling up; they used to lie during the day as a ball of spines, the young being born with spines.

Once our servant totally forgot to feed them for about a week, so the hedgehogs were very hungry and famishing. One evening two of them were noticed attacking a young one which was on the move. The points of attack were the posterior limbs, which were later chewed. The young made a pathetic noise which was not very easy to hear. After a short while the attackers succeeded in getting the young unrolled and started eating the abdomen. Three others joined them. I cannot, however, ascertain whether the mother of the young was also among these, since the body of a hedgehog is so covered with spines that it is very difficult to tell the sex just by looking at one.

The other night a hedgehog, *Hemiechinus a. collaris*, died a natural death. Next morning I observed that both the species, *H. a. collaris* and *P. micropus*, were busy breakfasting on the carcase. In January 1953 I fed them on a dead specimen with its abdomen cut open. Most of the hedgehogs present in the cage relished the viscera.

Thus both types of cannibalism are present among hedgehogs: feeding on a dead companion, and killing it and then feeding on it.

However, when properly fed the animals do not, usually, molest one another.

BIRLA COLLEGE, PILANI,
April 24, 1953.

ISHWAR PRAKASH, M.Sc.
Research Scholar

7. A COLOUR VARIATION, AND ALBINISM IN THE GIANT SQUIRREL—*RATUFA INDICA*

Subsequent to the publication of 'Races of the Indian Giant Squirrel' (*J.B.N.H.S.*, Vol. 50, pp. 467-474), we have had the opportunity of examining 89 additional specimens collected by the Mammal Survey and recently returned to Bombay by the British Museum.

While they fully confirm our conclusions, a specimen (male) collected by J. Riley O'Brien at 3,000 ft. elevation, 5 miles north of Gungavadori in the Palni Hills (whence no others were collected) represents either an individual or a local colour variation.

It differs from *maxima*, which occurs in the neighbouring areas, in having the sides of the body more reddish brown, and which colour in varying shades is prominent on the face, between and behind the ears and also on the fore and hind feet. The tail is not completely black as in *maxima*, but has a large amount of dark reddish-brown patchily distributed between the base and the tip, which are both black. The forehead patch and the ear-tips are also darker than in *maxima*. The label reads 'occurs in evergreen jungles on the slopes and not at Gungavadori itself'.

It may also be of interest to record an albino obtained by Jamshed Panday at Mahableshwar (Western Ghats) 4,000 ft., Satara District, Bombay, on 29th December 1952. The specimen had pink eyes and is pure white as compared to the normal coloured eyes and dirty-creamy white of *dealbatus*. Other normal coloured squirrels were noted in the same locality.

114, APOLLO STREET, FORT,
BOMBAY,
April 27, 1953.

HUMAYUN ABDULALI
J. C. DANIEL

8. JUNGLE NOTES FROM SOUTH INDIA

While out on shikar a few days ago my daughter and I observed an interesting incident.

A cow elephant, with a very young calf, was browsing in a grass patch just below us late in the afternoon. Suddenly it swung round and made repeated short rushes at an animal in the grass, trumpeting and keeping its calf behind it. Then we heard a roar and realised the intruder was a tiger, which, we thought at the time, appeared to be attacking the elephant and its calf. The whole proceeding only lasted a few minutes and the elephant and tiger then departed in opposite directions. We later found the tiger, or rather tigress, had



Prakash, I . 1953. "Cannibalism in Hedgehogs." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 51, 730–731.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/187064>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/153488>

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>.