

2. SHORTNOSED FRUIT BAT (*CYNOPTERUS SPHINX* VAHL) FEEDING ON THE LEAVES OF *CASSIA FISTULA* AT POINT CALIMERE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

To study the role of seed dispersal by mammals, the faecal samples and chewed-off remains dropped by Shortnosed fruit bat were collected from Point Calimere sanctuary during different seasons of the year. From the studies it was evident that fruits of nearly 25 plant species were eaten and dispersed by these bats. Apart from the fruits and seeds dropped under their roosting sites, I noticed one to many chewed-off leaflets of *Cassia fistula* during every collection trip (twice a week). The

occurrence of only *Cassia fistula* leaves in their droppings throughout the year indicates that the *Cassia fistula* leaves form a supplement to the regular diet of the Shortnosed fruit bat.

The literature (Brosset 1962, Prater 1980) says that Shortnosed fruit bats feed on fruits and sip honey from flowers. So it will be worth noting that *Cassia fistula* leaves are also one of the food items of the Shortnosed fruit bat.

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REFERENCES

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PRATER, S. H. (1980): The book of Indian Animals. Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay. pp. 187A-187B.

3. SCAVENGING HABIT OF FISHING CAT (*FELIS VIVERRINA*) IN KEOLADEO NATIONAL PARK, BHARATPUR

While returning from field work at about 6 p.m. on February 4, 1987 I was attracted by the noise of a carnivore feeding from a nearby bush. I searched and located the carcass of a cow with a fishing cat feeding on it. The cat slipped away with a piece of flesh on sighting me.

The larger cats (tiger) are known to feed on carrion (Prater 1965), but I am unaware of earlier records of scavenging by the fishing cat.

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