

6. A NOTE ON THE FOOD OF THE SMALL INDIAN CIVET
(*VIVERRICULA INDICA*) AT POINT CALIMERE
WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, TAMIL NADU

On 6th May 1986, by 0830 hrs. we found a dead Small Indian Civet possibly run over by a vehicle near Muniappan Eri at Point Calimere. We opened its stomach to examine the stomach contents and were surprised to see a large number of centipedes (not yet digested) and other food in the stomach. The stomach contents are as follows: 1. 16 Centipedes (intact; average length is 6-8 cm), 2. three broken portions of centipedes, 3. 7 crickets and broken parts of a few crickets, 4. a grain

of paddy, 5. one *Prosopis juliflora* seed, 6. three legs of a frog and 7. a small quantity of fibrous portions of Palmyrah fruit (?). Though it has been recorded (Prater 1971) that the Small Indian Civet will feed on rats, squirrels, small birds, lizards, insects and their grubs, poultry, on anything which it can catch and kill, fruits, roots and other vegetable matter, it is interesting to note that it feeds on a large number of centipedes.

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REFERENCE

PRATER, S. H. (1971): The Book of Indian Animals, 3rd ed. Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay. pp. 91-92.

7. UNUSUAL COLORATION OF NILGAI (*BOSELAPHUS*
TRAGOCAMELUS)

On a recent visit to Sariska National Park in Rajasthan I came upon a young nilgai male which was uniformly a off-white colour and appeared a dirty white and distinct from the normal coloured nilgai which it was accompanying. It was not an albino as the eye coloration was normal.

In the same trip I also saw in the same locality around Kalighati a normal coloured

nilgai with a streak of white coloration extending from the forehead to the nostrils and with a literal marking extending from eye to eye. This colour patch look was thus a T shape configuration. The bare skin around the nostrils was also cream coloured.

During my more than 40 years of observation of nilgai I have never come across coloration of this kind.

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