

MAMMALS OF UTTAR PRADESH TERAI

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INTRODUCTION

The Zoological Survey of India under the U. P. Survey programme, extensively surveyed the U. P. Terai region between 1983 and 1990. The author participated in these surveys particularly for the mammalian fauna of the region. It has been increasingly felt that a thorough knowledge of the mammalian species occurring in the Terai region is a prerequisite or any study from research and management point of view and for their survival and propagation in the region. As mammals constitute the central complex of wildlife ecosystem, their knowledge in the area is important for sound wildlife conservation measures, tourism promotion and in the programme of preparation of faunal inventory. In the present paper, an attempt has been made to compile an up to date list of mammals of U. P. Terai districts based on field observation and from the published records.

The Terai (=moist land) also known as "Duars" in West Bengal and Bangladesh, is a strip of formerly marshy land stretching parallel to the lower ranges of the Himalayas in Northern India. It extends roughly from Yamuna river in the west to the Brahmaputra river in the east. A large portion of it lies within Nepal (Anon., 1973). In U. P., the Terai region is situated in the northern part of the State and spreads in ten districts bordering Nepal. These districts are parts of Nainital, Pilibhit, Lakhimpur-kheri, Bahraich, Gonda, Basti, Sidhartnagar, Maharajganj, Gorakhpur and Deoria. The U. P. Terai region is bounded in the north by Nepal, west by parts of Nainital, Rampur and Bareilly districts, south side by the districts of Sahjahanpur, Sitapur, Lucknow, Barabanki, Faizabad, Azamgarh and Ballia and in the east by the State of Bihar. The total area of 10 districts of U. P. Terai is about 51,147 sq. km. At the northern edge of the U. P. Terai, where the riverless forest tract of the Bhabhar (coarse gravel deposits) ends, a series of springs emerge out which unitedly form numerous streams that intersect the Terai and are responsible for its marshy character. The topography is more or less flat, interspersed with a large number of rivers of varying size. Important among these are the Sharda, Gomti, Ghaghra, Rapti, Rohin, Sarayu and Aami. The luxurious tropical dry-deciduous forests comprise mainly of sal, and also mixed forests abound the U. P. Terai, particularly in the northern side.

In the past, because of the inaccessible nature of the terrain due to poor communication link, poverty, excess of mosquitoes and mosquito born diseases, contaminated water, etc., the wildlife remained more or less undisturbed from human interference. But in recent past, the human population has increased manifold. To accommodate the growth, overall development took place which has witnessed expansion of human activities, particularly expansion of agriculture and setting up of new human colonies. These constraints forced a number of species to recede in number. This regression is attributed to the shrinkage of natural habitat, deforestation, increased rate of poaching and expansion of agricultural fields right up to the edge of the forest. Loss of wasteland along the periphery of the forest, which acts as buffer zone to both the wildlife and the cattle, unrestricted grazing and spreading urbanisation are some more parameters which affected the regression.

The U. P. Terai is one of the richest area for the typical large mammals of northern India. The elephant, the sambar, the barking deer, the chital, the hog deer, the wild boar all abound in this area. The tiger, the leopard, the wolf, the wild dog, etc., are the predators, and the hyaena, the jackal and the Bengal fox scavenging on the remains of the predator-kill.

In the present paper, 58 species of mammals belonging to 10 orders, 19 families and 44 genera are being recorded.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Order : INSECTIVORA

Family : SORICIDAE

1. *Suncus murinus* (Linnaeus)

House shrew

1766. *Sorex murinus* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat.* 12th ed. 1 : 44.

Type locality : Java.

Distribution : Throughout temperate and tropical regions of Europe, Africa, North America and Asia. This is the commonest shrew in India and is found throughout the Indian subcontinent.

Status in U. P. Terai : Very common. Seen moving in the camps at Pilibhit, Lakhimpur-Kheri, Bahraich, Basti and Gorakhpur districts by the author during early night. Also reported from Bahraich district (Lal, 1977), and Gorakhpur and Maharajganj districts (Singh, 1976 ; Ahsan, 1983).

2. *S. etruscus* (Savi)
Savi's Pygmy Shrew

1822. *Sorex etruscus* Savi, *Nuovo Giorn. de Letterati, Pisa*, 1 : 60.

Type locality ; Pisa, Italy.

Distribution : Southern Europe ; eastern and southern Africa, Middle East and Sri Lanka. In India, it is widely distributed in Peninsula up to Punjab in the north, Sikkim, West Bengal and Assam in the east and Orissa in the south.

Status in U. P. Terai : Not very common. One specimen was recorded from the house in the thickly populated area of Gorakhpur by the author at night.

Order : CHIROPTERA

Family : PTEROPODIDAE

3. *Rousettus leschenaulti* (Desmarest)
Fulvus Fruit Bat

1820. *Pteropus leschenaulti* Desmarest, *Encycl. Meth. Mamm.* 1 : 110.

Type locality : Pondicherry, India.

Distribution ; Nepal, Bhutan, Duars, Myanmar, Indo-China, Southern China and Java. In India, the species is distributed in Peninsular India including the Western Ghats, Bombay, Coorg, etc.

Status in U. P. Terai : Fairly common and can be seen in the orchards in the late evening and nights. The Fulvus Fruit Bat has been recorded from Gorakhpur and Mahrajganj districts (Singh, 1976 ; Ahsan, 1983).

4. *Pteropus giganteus* (Brünnich)
Indian Flying Fox

1782. *Vespertilio gigantea* Brünnich, *Dyrenes Historie.* 1 : 45.

Type locality ; Bengal, India.

Distribution : Widely distributed in Peninsular India northward to Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, western and eastern Himalayas. The species has also been distributed in Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar.

Status in U. P. Terai : Very common. The author recorded this species from their roosting place (an old tree) in Sahebganj vegetable market in Gorakhpur. It is also recorded from Bahraich district (Lal, 1977).

5. *Cynopterus sphinx* (Vahl) Short-nosed Fruit Bat

1797. *Vespertilio sphinx* Vahl, *Skr. Nat. Selsk Copenhagen*, 4, 1 : 123.

Type locality : Tranquebar, Madras, India.

Distribution : Hainan, Vietnam, Bhutan Duars, South-East Asia, Sri Lanka. In India, the species is widely distributed in the Peninsula and U. P. Terai regions.

Status in U. P. Terai : The species is commonly found damaging the fruit crops in the orchard at dusk and night. Also reported from Bahraich (Lal, 1977).

Family : MEGADERMATIDAE

6. *Megaderma lyra* Geoffroy Indian False Vampire

1810. *Magaderma lyra* Geoffroy, *Ann. Mus. H.N. Paris*, 15 : 190.

Type locality : Madras, India.

Distribution : Southern China, Shan States, Myanmar, Malay States and Sri Lanka. In India, the species is widely distributed from Kashmir to Cape Camorin and from Western Ghats to Bhutan Duars.

Status in U. P. Terai : Common. Found in caves, pits, crevices of old houses and hollows of trees. The species has been recorded from the five districts of Terai region i.e. Bahraich, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur and Deoria (Sinha, 1985).

Family : VESPERTILIONIDAE

7. *Myotis formosus* (Hodgson)
Hodgson's Bat

1835. *Vespertilio formosa* Hodgson, *J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, 4 : 700.

Type locality : Nepal.

Distribution : Nepal, Southern China, Korea, Formosa and Southern Japan. The Hodgson's Bat has been reported from Punjab, Kumaon (U. P.), Sikkim, Assam and West Bengal in India.

Status in U. P. Terai : Commonly found in all the districts by the author.

8. *Pipistrellus coromandra* (Gray)
Indian Pipistrelle

1838. *Scotophilus coromandra* Gray, *Mag. Zool. Bot.* 2 : 498.

Type locality : Pondicherry, India.

Distribution : Southern China, Hainan, Laos, Vietnam, Peninsula of India, Sri Lanka.

Status in U. P. Terai : The species is very common in the wasteland and peripheral jungles where caves, rocks and crevices are present. Being early flier with jerking erratic flight, the species has been recorded from all the districts by the author. Lal (1977) has also recorded the Indian Pipistrelle from Bahraich district.

9. *P. mimus* Wroughton
Indian Pygmy Pipistrelle

1899. *Pipistrellus mimus* Wroughton, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 12 : 722.

Type locality : Surat, India.

Distribution : Practically the whole of India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, east to Vietnam.

Status in U. P. Terai : Recorded from the roof hole at the Railway Officer's Inspection Bungalow at Basti.

10. **Scotophilus heathi** (Horsfield)
Greater Yellow Bat

1831. *Nycticejus heathi* Horsfield, *Proc. Zool. Soc.* : 113.

Type locality : Madras, India.

Distribution : China and its adjoining south-eastern parts, Myanmar, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka. The species is found throughout India.

Status in U. P. Terai : A common species in the area and the author has recorded it from Lakhimpur, Bahraich, Gonda and Deoria districts. The Greater Yellow Bat has also been recorded earlier from Bahraich (Lal, 1977) and from Gonda (Gupta, 1977).

Order : PRIMATES
Family : CERCOPITHECIDAE

11. **Macaca mulatta** (Zimmermann)
Rhesus Macaque

1780. *Cercopithecus mulatta* Zimmermann, *Geogr. Gesch. Mensch.* 2 : 195.

Type locality : India.

Distribution : Afganistan, Nepal, Myanmar, east to Vietnam, Southern China and Tibet. Widely distributed in Northern India including Himalayas where the species is found up to 2340 m altitude.

Status in U. P. Terai : Very common and has been recorded from all the ten districts of U. P. Terai by the author. Sharma (1964) has recorded the species from Lakhimpur-Kheri, Lal (1977) from Bahraich, Gupta (1977) from Gonda and Singh (1976) and Ahsan (1983) have recorded from Gorakhpur and Mahrajganj districts.

12. **Presbytis entellus** (Duffresne)
Hanuman Langur

1797. *Simia entellus* Duffresne, *Bull. Soc. Philom. Paris*, (1) 7 : 49.

Type locality : Bengal, India.

Distribution : Practically the whole of India, except the western deserts the eastern limit being Tista river in West Bengal. Also Sri Lanka and southern Tibet.

Status in U. P. Terai : Common. Recorded from all the ten districts of the region by the author. The species has also been recorded by Sharma (1964), Lal (1977), Gupta (1977) and Singh (1976) from Lakhimpur-Kheri, Bahraich, Gonda, Gorakhpur and Maharajganj districts respectively. Ahsan (1983) has also reported its occurrence from Gorakhpur and Maharajganj districts.

Order : PHOLIDOTA

Family : MANIDAE

13. **Manis crassicaudata** (Gray)
Indian Pangolin

1827. *Manis crassicaudatus* Gray, in Griffith's *Cuvier Anim. Kingd.*, 5 : 282.

Type locality : India.

Distribution : Sri Lanka and throughout the Indian Peninsula.

Status in U. P. Terai : Because of its nocturnal habits, the species though common, seldom comes under notice. The Indian Pangolin has been reported from Bahraich (Lal, 1977) and from Gonda (Gupta, 1977).

Order : CARNIVORA

Family : CANIDAE

14. **Canis lupus** Linnaeus
Wolf

1758. *Canis lupus* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat. 10th ed.*, 1 : 39.

Type locality : Sweden.

Distribution : North America, Europe, Commonwealth of States (Former USSR), Northern Greece, Turkey, Asia and practically whole of India.

Status in U. P. Terai : Not common. The species has been recorded from Lakhimpur-Kheri (Sharma, 1964), Bahraich (Lal, 1977) and from Gonda (Sharma, 1964 ; Gupta, 1977).

**15. *Canis aureus* Linnaeus
Asiatic Jackal**

1758. *Canis aureus* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat.* 10th ed., 1 : 40.

Type locality : Province of Lar, Iran.

Distribution : South-eastern Europe, South-western Asia, throughout India, Nepal, Sri Lanka extending a little into Myanmar and South-eastern Thailand.

Status in U. P. Terai : Commonly found in every district of the area in wasteland, scrub forest and forest edges. The species has also been reported from Lakhimpur-Kheri and Gonda (Sharma, 1964), Bahraich (Lal, 1977), and Gorakhpur and Mahrajganj districts (Singh, 1976).

**16. *Vulpes Bengalensis* (Shaw)
Bengal Fox**

1800. *Cuon bengalensis* Shaw, *Gen. Zool.* (1) 2 : 330.

Type locality : Bengal, India.

Distribution : Whole of India and Nepal.

Status in U. P. Terai : Commonly found in every district of the U. P. Terai, in burrows in the wasteland and cultivated fields. The species was also recorded from Lakhimpur-Kheri (Sharma, 1964), from Bahraich (Lal, 1977), from Gonda (Sharma, 1964), from Gorakhpur and Mahrajganj (Singh, 1976 and Ahsan, 1983).

**17. *Cuon alpinus* (Pallas)
Indian Wild Dog, Dhole, Red Dog**

1811. *Canis alpinus* Pallas, *Zoogr. Ross Asiat.* 1 : 34.

Type locality : Udskoi Ostrog, Amurland.

Distribution : Central and eastern Asia from the Altai mountain and Manchuria, southward through the forest regions of India to the Malay countries.

Status in U. P. Terai;: Occasional visitor. The species has been reported to occur in Bahraich district (Lal, 1977) and Gonda district (Gupta, 1977).

Family : URSIDAE

18. *Melursus ursinus* (Shaw)
Sloth Bear

1791. *Bradypus ursinus* Shaw, *Nat. Misc.* 2 (unpaged), pls. 58-59.

Type locality : Patna, Bihar, India.

Distribution : From base of the Himalayas to southern Peninsula, and Sri Lanka, in forest patches.

Status in U. P. Terai ; The Sloth Bear has been seen in Kishanpur forest adjoining the Dudhwa National Park, Lakhimpur-Kheri district. Lal (1977) has reported the occurrence of this species in Bahraich, Sharma (1964) and Gupta (1977) in Gonda district.

Family : MUSTELIDAE

19. *Mellivora capensis* (Schreber)
Ratel or Honey Badger

1776. *Viverra capensis* Schreber, *Saugeth.* pl. 125, also 1777. 3 : 450, 583.

Type locality : Cape of Good Hope.

Distribution : Africa, Western Asia, east to Nepal. In India, the species has been recorded from north western and western India east to West Bengal and south to Madras.

Status in U. P. Terai : The species has been recorded in the forest at night at Dudhwa National Park. Lal (1977) and Gupta (1977) have also recorded it from forests of Bahraich and Gonda districts.

20. *Lutra perspicillata* Geoffroy
Smooth coated Indian Otter

1826. *Lutra perspicillata* Geoffroy, *Dict. Class. H.N.* 9 : 519.

Type locality : Sumatra.

Distribution : Sumatra, Malay States, Laos, Vietnam, Western Yunnan, Myanmar, Assam, Nepal Terrai, Sind and southwards to Travancore.

Status in U. P. Terai : A pair of smooth coated Indian Otter has been seen in the river Suheli by the author in an afternoon drive. Also reported its occurrence in the Dudhwa National Park (Anon., n.d.).

Family : VIVERRIDAE

21. **Viverricula indica** (Desmarest)
Rasse, or Small Indian Civet

1817. *Viverra indica* Desmarest, *Nouv. Dict. N.H.* 7 : 170.

Type locality : India.

Distribution : Southern China, further to south-eastern Asia, Bhutan, Myanmar and throughout India, except Himalayas.

Status in U. P. Terai : Common. A lone specimen was seen at early night at P.W.D. Inspection Bungalow at Gonda by the author. The species has also been reported from Gorakhpur and Maharajganj districts (Singh, 1976 ; Ahsan, 1983).

22. **Paradoxurus hermophroditus** (Pallas)
Common Palm Civet, or Toddy Cat

1777. *Viverra hermophroditus* Pallas, In Schreber, *Sanzeth.* 3 : 426.

Type locality : India.

Distribution : Widely distributed in South-Eastern Asia and Sri Lanka. In India, the species is recorded in Himalayas from Kashmir to Assam and southwards through whole of the Peninsula.

Status in U. P. Terai : Common. One specimen each has been observed at the camp at Pilibhit and Bhinga in Bahraich district by the author. Ahsan (1983) has also reported its occurrence in Gorakhpur and Maharajganj districts.

23. *Herpestes aurpunctatus* (Hodgson)
Small Indian Mongoose

1836. *Mangusta auropunctata* Hodgson, *J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, 5 : 235.

Type locality : Nepal.

Distribution : Western Asia, Myanmar and Malay countries. In India, the species is found from Jammu & Kashmir to West Bengal, Orissa and Assam.

Status in U. P. Terai : Common and can be seen in wasteland and bushes in all the districts of the U. P. Terai region. Lal (1977) and Gupta (1977) have reported this species from Bahraich and Gonda districts respectively.

24. *H. edwardsi* (Geoffroy)
Indian Gray Mongoose

1818. *Ichneumon edwardsii* Geoffroy, *Deser. Egypte*, 2 : 139.

Type locality : Madras, India.

Distribution : Western Asia, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and throughout India except the Himalaya.

Status in U. P. Terai : Common and has been recorded from all the ten districts of U. P. Terai by the author. The species has also been recorded from Bahraich (Lal, 1977), Gonda (Gupta, 1977), Gorakhpur (Singh, 1976 ; Ahsan, 1983) and Mahrajganj (Singh, 1976).

Family : HYAENIDAE

25. *Hyaena hyaena* (Linnaeus)
Striped Hyaena

1758. *Canis hyaena* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat. 10th. ed.* 1 : 40.

Type locality : Laristan, Southern Iran.

Distribution : Southern Russia, south-western Asia Minor, northern Africa, Nepal (Terai) and throughout India.

Status in U. P. Terai : Hyaena has been recorded in the forests of Bhinga in Bahraich district and in the Dudhwa National Park by the author. The species has also been recorded from Bahraich (Lal, 1977), Gonda (Gupta, 1977) Gorakhpur and Mahrajganj (Singh, 1976 ; Ahsan, 1983).

Family : FELIDAE

26. *Felis chaus* Guldenstaedt
Jungle Cat

1776. *Felis chaus* Guldenstaedt, *Nov. Com. Acad. Petrop.*, 20 : 483.

Type locality : Terek river, north of Caucasus.

Distribution : Widely distributed from Egypt to Tibet and through India to Vietnam, also Sri Lanka.

Status in U. P. Terai : Widely distributed in the U. P. Terai region and has been recorded from Nainital, Pilibhit, Lakhimpur-Kheri, Basti and Deoria districts by the author. The species has also been reported to occur in Bahraich (Lal, 1977), Gonda (Gupta, 1977), Gorakhpur (Singh, 1976 ; Ahsan, 1983) and Mahrajganj, (Singh, 1976 ; Ahsan, 1983).

27. *F. marmorata* Martin
Marbled Cat

1837. *Felis marmorata* Martin, *Proc. Zool. Soc.*, 1836 : 108.

Type locality : Sumatra.

Distribution : Nepal, Sikkim, Assam, northern Myanmar, east to Vietnam, Malay States, Sumatra and Borneo.

Status in U. P. Terai : One specimen was seen at dusk in Bhinga forest in Bahraich district. The species has also been reported from Gorakhpur and Mahrajganj districts (Singh, 1976).

28. **F. bengalensis** Kerr
Leopard Cat

1792. *Felis bengalensis* Kerr, *Anim. Kingd.* : 151.

Type locality : Bengal, India.

Distribution : Siberia, South-eastern Asia generally northwards to Manchuria and Korea. In India, the species is found in forest regions from the Himalaya to Cape Camorin.

Status in U. P Terai : The species has been recorded from Dudhwa National Park in an evening trekking near Suheli river. Lal (1977) has reported the occurrence from Bahraich and Singh (1976) from Gorakhpur and Mahrajganj districts.

29. **F. viverrina** Benett
Fishing Cat

1833. *Felis viverrina* Bennett, *Proc. Zool. Soc.*, : 68.

Type locality : Malabar coast, India.

Distribution : India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, east to Vietnam and South to Sumatra, Java and Bali. In India, reported from West Bengal, Orissa and Kerala.

Status in U. P. Terai : Rarely seen. Reported to occur in Bahraich district (Lal, 1977).

30. **Panthera pardus** (Linnaeus)
Leopard

1758. *Felis pardus* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat. 10th ed.*, 1 : 41.

Type locality : Egypt.

Distribution : Widely distributed in Russia, Asia Minor, parts of African continent Western Asia, China, Tibet, east to Vietnam, Malaysia, whole of India and Sri Lanka.

Status in U. P Terai : Common. Evidence of the presence of this species has been gathered in all the ten districts. Anon (n. d) reported the presence in Dudhwa

National Park, Lakhimpur-Kheri district. The presence of Leopard has also been reported from Bahraich (Lal, 1977), Gonda (Sharma, 1964 ; Gupta, (1977), Gorakhpur and Mahrajganj districts (Singh, 1976).

31. *P. tigris* (Linnaeus)

Tiger

1758. *Felis tigris* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat. 10th ed.*, 1 : 41.

Type locality ; Bengal, India.

Distribution ; Widely distributed in parts of Russia and China, Iran, most parts of India except the desert zone, Myanmar, Vietnam, Malaysian States, Sumatra, Java and Bali.

Status in U. P. Terai : Inhabit suitable pockets in the region with maximum concentration in Dudhwa National Park and Kishanpur Wild Life Sanctuary in Lakhimpur-Kheri district. The species has also been recorded in Corbett National Park, Nainital district. It also occurs in Bahraich (Lal, 1977), Gonda (Sharma, 1964 ; Gupta, 1977), Gorakhpur (Singh, 1976, Ahsan, 1983) and Maharajganj (Singh, 1976 ; Ahsan, 1983).

Order : PROBOSCIDEA

Family : ELEPHANTIDAE

32. *Elephas maximus* Linnaeus

Indian Elephant

1758. *Elephas maximus* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat. 10th ed.*, 1 : 33.

Type locality ; Sri Lanka.

Distribution : Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Malay States, Sumatra and in India, along the base of Himalayas from Dehradun to Assam and between Ganges and Krishna, Western Ghats and Mysore.

Status in U. P. Terai : Elephant inhabits Corbett and Dudhwa National Parks in Nainital and Lakhimpur-Kheri districts respectively. The species has also been seen in the forests of Gorakhpur district where the forest is contiguous with that of Nepal (Singh 1976, Ahsan 1983).

Order : ARTIODACTYLA

Family : SUIDAE

33. *Sus scrofa* Linnaeus
Wild Boar

1758. *Sus scrofa* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat.*, 10th ed., 1 : 49.

Type locality : Germany.

Distribution : Widely distributed throughout the world.

Status in U. P. Terai : Common in all the districts of U. P. Terai. The species has been reported from Nainital (Lamba, 1987), Lakhimpur-Kheri (Anon, n. d), Bahraich (Lal, 1977), Gonda (Sharma, 1964 ; Gupta, 1977), Gorakhpur and Mahrajganj (Singh, 1976 ; Ahsan, 1983).

34. *S. salvanius* (Hodgson)
Pygmy Hog

1847. *Porcula salvania* Hodgson, *J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, 16 : 423, pls. 12, 13.

Type locality : Sikkim, India.

Distribution : Terai between Bhutan and northern Assam, particularly in Manas Biosphere Reserve.

Status in U. P. Terai : It used to be fairly common about a century ago but now disappeared from the area due to habitat modification (Mukherjee 1966).

Family : CERRIDAE

35. *Muntiacus muntjac* (Zimmermann)
Barking Deer

1780. *Cervus muntjak* Zimmermann, *Geogr. Gesch.*, 2 : 131.

Type locality : Java.

Distribution : Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, southern China, Thailand, Vietnam, Borneo and Lombok.

Status in U. P. Terai : Commonly found in whole of U. P. Terai region. The species has also been reported from Nainital (Lamba, 1987), Lakhimpur-Kheri (Anon, n. d ; Sharma, 1964), Bahraich (Lal, 1977), Gonda (Gupta, 1977), Gorakhpur and Mahrajganj (Singh, 1976 ; Ahsan, 1983).

36. **Axis axis** (Erxleben)
Chital or Spotted Deer

1777. *Cervus axis* Erxleben, *Syst. Regn. Anim.*, : 312.

Type locality : Bank of Ganges, India.

Distribution : Nepal, Sri Lanka and practically whole of India up to an elevation of about 1,000 meters.

Status in U. P. Terai : Plenty in all the suitable pockets. The species is also reported by Lamba (1987) from Nainital, Anon (n. d) ; from Lakhimpur-Kheri, Lal (1977) from Bahraich, Gupta (1977) ; from Gonda, Singh (1976) and Ahsan (1983) from Gorakhpur and Mahrajganj districts.

37. **A. porcinus** (Zimmermann)
Hog Deer

1780. *Cervus porcinus* Zimmermann, *Geogr. Gesch.*, 2 : 131.

Type locality : Bengal, India.

Distribution : Low alluvial grass plains in northern India extending into Myanmar, east to Vietnam and S. China. Introduced in Sri Lanka.

Status in U. P. Terai : Widely distributed in U. P. Terai region but their number is certainly less than Chital. The species has also been reported from Nainital, Lakhimpur-Kheri, Bahraich, Gonda, Gorakhpur and Mahrajganj (Lamba, 1987 ; Anon, n.d ; Sharma, 1964 ; Lal, 1977 ; Gupta, 1977, Singh, 1976 ; Ahsan, 1983).

**38. Cervus unicolor (Kerr)
Sambar**

1792. *Cervus axis unicolor* Kerr, *Anim. Kingd.* : 300.

Type locality : Sri Lanka.

Distribution : Sri Lanka, India, Myanmar, China, Taiwan, Celebes Is., Thailand, Vietnam, Sumatra, Borneo and the Philippines.

Status in U. P. Terai : Widely distributed in suitable pockets throughout U. P. Terai. The species has been recorded from Nainital (Lamba, 1987), Lakhimpur-Kheri (Anon, n.d; Sharma, 1964), Bahraich (Lal, 1977), Gonda (Sharma, 1964 ; Gupta, 1977), Gorakhpur and Mahrajganj (Singh, 1976 ; Ahsan, 1983).

**39. C. duvauceli Cuvier
Swamp Deer, Barasingha**

1823. *Cervus duvauceli* Cuvier, *Oss. Foss. ed.* 2, 4 : 505.

Type locality : North India.

Distribution : India, north of the Ganga from Kumaon to Assam, and south of the Ganga principally in Madhya Pradesh.

Status in U. P. Terai : Confined to Dudhwa National Park and Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary in Lakhimpur-Kheri district. Lal (1977) has reported Swamp Deer from Bahraich but its occurrence now is doubtful there.

Family : BOVIDAE

**40. Tetraceros quadricornis (Blainville)
Four-horned Antelope, Chausingha**

1816. *Cerophorus (Cervicapra) quadricornis* Blainville, *Bull. Soc. Philom, Paris*, : 75-76.

Type locality : Plains of Peninsular India.

Distribution : Peninsular India to Nepal Terai.

Status in U. P. Terai : Rare. Reported from Bahraich district by Lal (1977).

41. **Boselaphus tragocamelus** (Pallas)

Nilgai, Blue Bull

1766. *Antilope tragocamelus* Pallas, *Misc. zool.*, : 5.*Type locality* : Plains of Peninsular India.*Distribution* : Base of Himalaya to Karnataka in the south.

Status in U. P. Terai : Common and becomes menace to the agriculture crop in the area. The species has been reported from the area by Lamba (1987), Anon (n. d), Lal (1977), Sharma (1964), Singh (1976) and Ahsan (1983).

42. **Antilope cervicapra** (Linnaeus)

Blackbuck

1758. *Capra cervicapra* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat. 10th ed.*, 1 : 69.*Type locality* : Trivendram, India.*Distribution* : India from Punjab, east to West Bengal and south to Cape Camorin.

Status in U. P. Terai : Rare. The species has been reported from Bahraich (Lal, 1977) and Gonda (Sharma, 1976 ; Gupta, 1977) districts only.

Order : LAGOMORPHA

Family : LEPORIDAE

43. **Lepus nigricolis** Cuvier

Indian Black-naped Hare

1823. *Lepus nigricollis* Cuvier, *Dict. Sci. Nat.*, 26 : 307.*Type locality* : Tamil Nadu, India.

Distribution : Practically whole of India. Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Java and Sri Lanka.

Status in U. P. Terai : Common and distributed throughout U. P. Terai. The species has been reported from Nainital (Lamba, 1987), Bahraich (Lal, 1977), Gonda (Sharma, 1964 ; Gupta, 1977), Gorakhpur and Mahrajganj (Singh, 1976 ; Ahsan, 1983).

44. Caprolagus hispidus Pearson
Hispid Hare

1839. *Lepus hispidus* Pearson, in McClelland, *Proc. zool. Soc.*, 152.

Type locality : Northern Assam, Foot of Himalaya, India.

Distribution : North-eastern India, West Bengal, Assam, west to Uttar Pradesh and Nepal.

Status in U. P. Terai : Rare. Recently located in Dudhwa National Park, Lakhimpur-Kheri district by Sinha (1990).

Order : RODENTIA

Family : SCIURIDAE

45. Petaurista petaurista (Pallas)
Common Giant Flying Squirrel

1766. *Sciurus petaurista* Pallas, *Misc. zool.*, : 54.

Type locality : Western Java.

Distribution : Malay States, Thailand, Vietnam, China, Myanmar and Nepal. In India, the species is distributed in Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Peninsular India.

Status in U. P. Terai : Two specimens were seen gliding from one tree to the other in PWD Inspection Bungalow at Pilibhit at dusk. A group of about four specimens were also noticed in Dudhwa National Park in Lakhimpur-Kheri district by the author.

46. Funambulus pennanti Wroughton
Northern Palm Squirrel

1905. *Funambulus pennanti* Wroughton, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.*, 16 (3): 411.

Type locality : Surat, India.

Distribution : Pakistan, Nepal and throughout northern India.

Status in U. P. Terai : Common and found practically in all the districts of U. P. Terai. Lamba (1987) and Lal (1977) have reported it from Nainital and Bahraich respectively.

Family : HYSTRICIDAE

47. *Hystrix indica* (Kerr)
Indian Crested Porcupine

1792. *Hystrix cristata* var. *indica* Kerr, *Anim. Kingd.* : 213.

Type locality : India.

Distribution : Western Asia, southern Arabia, parts of Turkestan, Transcaucasia, Sri Lanka, Nepal and widely distributed in India.

Status in U. P. Terai : Widely distributed in U. P. Terai districts. One specimen each was seen in Dudhwa National Park, Lakhimpur-Kheri and Pilibhit district at dusk. The species has also been reported from Nainital (Lamba, 1987), Bahraich (Lal, 1977), Gonda (Sharma, 1964 ; Gupta, 1977), Gorakhpur and Mahrajganj (Singh, 1976 ; Ahsan, 1983) districts.

Family : MURIDAE

48. *Vandeleuria oleracea* (Bennett)
Indian Long-tailed Tree Mouse

1832. *Mus oleraceus* Bennett, *Proc. zool. Soc.* : 121.

Type locality : Deccan, India.

Distribution : Sri Lanka, Nepal, Myanmar, east to Vietnam, S. China and throughout India.

Status in U. P. Terai : Thomas (1914) reported its occurrence in Ramnagar, Nainital district.

49. **Millardia meltada** (Gray)
Soft-furred Field Rat

1837. *Golunda meltada* Gray, *Mag. Nat. Hist.*, 1 : 586.

Type locality : Dharwar, India.

Distribution : Peninsular India, north to Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, also Sri Lanka and Nepal Terai.

Status in U. P. Terai : The species has been recorded from wasteland near agriculture fields in Deoria and Gorakhpur districts (Sinha, 1985).

50. **Rattus rattus** (Linnaeus)
House Rat

1758. *Mus rattus* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat. 10th ed.*, 1 : 61.

Type locality : Sweden.

Distribution : Widely distributed throughout the world including India.

Status in U. P. Terai : Common in almost every household in the U. P. Terai. The species has been recorded from Nainital (Lamba, 1987), Bahraich (Lal, 1977), Gonda (Gupta, 1977), Gorakhpur and Mahrajganj (Singh, 1976). Sinha (1985) has recorded it from Bahraich, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur and Deoria districts.

51. **Mus musculus** Linnaeus
House Mouse

1758. *Mus musculus* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat. 10th ed.*, 1 : 62.

Type locality : Sweden.

Distribution : Distributed throughout the world including India.

Status in U. P. Terai : Widely distributed. The species has been recorded from Nainital (Lamba, 1987), Bahraich (Lal, 1977), Gonda (Gupta, 1977), Gorakhpur and Mahrajganj (Singh, 1976 ; Ahsan, 1983). Sinha (1985) has recorded it from Bahraich, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur and Deoria districts.

**52. *Mus booduga* (Gray)
Little Indian Field Mouse**

1837. *Leggada booduga* Gray, *Charlesworths Mag. Nat. Hist.*, 1 : 586.

Type locality : Southern Maharashtra, India.

Distribution : Northern and Peninsular India, western and eastern Ghats, Kumaon and Punjab extending up to mid Myanmar.

Status in U. P. Terai : Common. The species has been recorded from Nainital, Bahraich, Gorakhpur and Mahrajganj districts by Lamba (1987), Lal (1977), Singh (1976) and Ahsan (1983), respectively.

**53. *Golunda ellioti* Gray
Indian Bush Rat**

1837. *Golunda ellioti* Gray, *Charlesworths Mag. Nat. Hist.*, 1 : 586.

Type locality : Dharwar, India.

Distribution : Sri Lanka, Indian Peninsula, north up to Punjab. The range extends into Pakistan, Nepal and Bhutan.

Status in U. P. Terai : Common in western part of U. P. Terai. Lamba (1987) and Lal (1977) have recorded the species from Nainital and Bahraich districts respectively.

**54. *Bandicota bengalensis* (Gray and Hardwicke)
Lesser Bandicoot Rat, Indian Mole Rat**

1833. *Arvicola bengalensis* Gray & Hardwicke, *Illus. Indian Zool* : 2, pl. 21.

Type locality : Bengal, India.

Distribution : South-eastern Asia including whole of India.

Status in U. P. Terai : The presence is noticed by the mole hills they made at their place of habitation. Lal (1977) has recorded the species from Bahraich. Sinha (1985) has also reported it from Bahraich, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur and Deoria districts.

**55. *Bandicota indica* (Bechstein)
Large Bandicoot Rat**

1800. *Mus indicus* Bechstein, *Ueber Vierf. Thiere.*, 2 : 497.

Type locality : Pondicherry, India.

Distribution : Widely distributed in India and adjoining countries including Sri Lanka, Nepal, Myanmar, east to Vietnam, S. China, Java, Sumatra and Hong Kong.

Status in U. P. Terai : Common. The species has been recorded by Sinha (1985) from Bahraich, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur and Deoria districts. Lamba (1987), Singh (1976) and Ahsan (1983) have also recorded from Nainital, Gorakhpur, Mahrajganj districts respectively.

**56. *Nesokia indica* Gray & Hardwicke
Short-tailed Bandicoot Rat, Short-tailed Mole Rat**

1832. *Arvicola indica* Gray & Hardwicke, *Illust. Ind. Zool.*, 1, pl. XI.

Type locality : India.

Distribution : Southern Russia, Chinese Turkestan, western Asia. In India, it occurs from Jammu & Kashmir to West Bengal.

Status in U. P. Terai : The species has only been recorded from Nainital district by Lamba (1987).

**57. *Tatera indica* (Hardwicke)
Indian Gerbil, Antelope Rat**

1807. *Dipus Indicus* Hardwicke, *Trans. Linn. Soc. London*, 8 : 279.

Type locality : Between Varanasi and Hardwar, India.

Distribution : Western Asia, Sri Lanka, Nepal Terai and widely distributed in Indian Peninsula and Punjab.

Status in U. P. Terai : Common. Lamba (1987) has recorded it from Nainital and Sinha (1985) has recorded it from Bahraich, Gonda, Basti, Gorakhpur and Deoria districts.

Order : CETACEA

Family : PLATANISTIDAE

58. *Platanista gangetica* (Lebeck)

Gangetic Dolphin, Susu

1801. *Dolphinus gangeticus* Lebeck, *Neue, Schr. Ges. Naturf. Fr. Berlin*, 3 : 280.

Type locality : Hooghly river near Calcutta, India.

Distribution : In India, the species has been recorded from river Ganga and Brahmaputra and their tributaries.

Status in U. P. Terai : The species has been recorded from Ghagra river in Bahraich district (Lal, 1977).

SUMMARY

An inventory of the fauna occurring in Terai region of Uttar Pradesh has been attempted. The Terai is spread in ten districts of U. P. *viz.*, parts of Nainital, Pilibhit, Lakhimpur-Kheri, Bahraich, Gonda, Basti, Sidharthnagar, Gorakhpur, Mahrajganj and Deoria, with an approximate area of 51,147 sq. km. As mammals constitute the central complex of wildlife, their knowledge in the area is important for sound wildlife conservation measures and tourism promotion. The account records 58 species of mammals belonging to 10 orders, 19 families and 44 genera.

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