

**Table 1.** Corrected and updated entries (in bold) on occurrence of mammal species in rainforests within the Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and in fragments on the Valparai Plateau, Anamalai hills

Species	Site										
	IGWLS					Overall	Private fragments				Overall
	AG	AN	IYAK	KS	VBMS		KO	PA	PU	TF	
Brown mongoose <i>Herpestes fuscus</i>	–	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>p<sup>*</sup></b>	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>p<sup>*</sup></b>	–	–	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>	–	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>
Brown palm civet <i>Paradoxurus jerdoni</i>	<b>p<sup>*</sup></b>	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>p<sup>*</sup></b>	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>
Otter species (unidentified)	–	–	–	<b>p</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>p</b>	–	–	–	–	–
Indian porcupine <i>Hystrix indica</i>	<b>p</b>	<b>p<sup>*</sup></b>	<b>p</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>p<sup>*</sup></b>	<b>p<sup>*</sup></b>	<b>p<sup>*</sup></b>	<b>p</b>	<b>p</b>
Leopard cat <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i>	–	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>	–	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>p<sup>*</sup></b>	<b>p<sup>*</sup></b>	–	–	<b>p<sup>*</sup></b>	–	<b>p<sup>*</sup></b>
Nilgiri marten <i>Martes gwatkinsii</i>	–	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>p<sup>*</sup></b>	–	–	<b>p<sup>*</sup></b>	–	–	–	–	–
Small Indian civet <i>Viverricula indica</i>	–	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>	–	–	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>	–	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>
Stripe-necked mongoose <i>Herpestes vitticollis</i>	–	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	–	–	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>	–	<b>p<sup>^</sup></b>

Site codes: IGWLS, Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary; AG, Anaigundi; AN, Andiparai; IYAK, Iyerpadi–Akkamalai Complex; KS, Karian Shola; VBMS, Varagaliar–Manamboli complex; KO, Korangumudi; PA, Pannimade; PU, Puthuthottam; TF, Tata Finley.

**p**, Species that were recorded through indirect evidence (e.g., tracks, calls) on transects.

**p<sup>\*</sup>**, Species not recorded on transects but incidentally encountered in a site by the authors and/or other observers.

**p<sup>^</sup>**, Species not recorded during the study<sup>1</sup> but reported from that site by Kumar *et al.*<sup>2</sup>.

vidual sites. We now provide additional information, pertaining chiefly to the small carnivores, from the same source<sup>2</sup> in terms of occurrence of species in individual sites in Table 1.

We also wish to note that records marked by a **p<sup>\*</sup>**, noted as species incidentally encountered in a site, while correct, include observations of the present authors corroborated by observations of other colleagues, students, and experienced local field assistants working in the area in most cases. In the case of two species, however, occurrence reported in the article was based exclusively on information from colleagues: Travancore flying squirrel *Petinomys fuscocapillus* in sites KS (by S. Ganesan), and in site TF (by R. Nandini), and Nilgiri marten *Martes gwatkinsii* in site AN (M. Ananda Kumar). We are grateful to these colleagues and others for sharing their occurrence information.

Appendix 2 in the article also lists the Eurasian otter (*Lutra lutra*). As field identification of otters without proper photographs is difficult, especially in conditions of poor visibility along forest streams, we are now of the opinion that this record is better treated as ‘otter species (unidentified)’ until confirmed by photographs. From other locations in the wider landscape, there are recent records of what are probably smooth-coated otter *Lutra perspicillata* (reservoirs, pers. obs.), and small-clawed otter *Aonyx cinereus*, the latter confirmed through camera-trap photographs (N. Prakash and K. Varma).

Finally, the Indian porcupine *Hystrix indica* was recorded recently from site PU as well (November 2008, road-kill, pers. obs.), thereby marking it as a species occurring in all the study fragments.

The corrections and updated entries are provided in Table 1; information on other

species in appendix 2 of the article remains correct to the best of our knowledge.

1. Sridhar, H., Raman, T. R. S. and Mudappa, D., *Curr. Sci.*, 2008, **94**, 748–757.
2. Kumar, A. *et al.*, Impact of rain forest fragmentation on small mammals and herpetofauna in the Western Ghats, south India. WII-USFWS collaborative project. Final report, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, 2002.

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## Faculty recruitment in India

Sharma<sup>1</sup> has correctly stated that faculty members, whether in schools, colleges, or universities, must be capable and talented. They must also be interested in teaching and research. He also stated: ‘It has been amply written about and realized that the

way human resource (faculty) is recruited leaves much to be desired’.

I have wondered for long why do Indian institutions of higher education not recruit faculty members worldwide? Why must Indian students be condemned to being

educated only by Indian faculty members, in this age of globalized science and technology?

If we look at faculty members serving in the top institutions in USA, UK and other leading countries much admired

for R&D excellence, we find that many of them have names which are not easy to pronounce by the local people. These institutions recruit from the best available talent pool, regardless of citizenship and country of origin.

India is no longer a basket case. It is not even a sleeping giant. It has woken

up. When will Indian institutions close their eyes to such unacademic factors as citizenship and begin to hire from the most qualified persons willing to apply from Tahiti to Tacoma?

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1. Sharma, O. P., *Curr. Sci.*, 2009, **96**, 1560.

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## Biodiversity and climate change – links with poverty

India has an amazing biodiversity; a result of its varied climate, soil and its rich cultural and ethnic diversity. There are over 53 million tribal people belonging to 550 communities. They all depend on nature and its variable ecosystems. Forests ecosystem are host to a wealth of biodiversity, 70% of the flora and fauna inhabit the tropical forests.

Similarly, the rural population in the global south living under poverty conditions depend on the biological resources to meet 90% of their needs. About 80% of the world's population depends upon traditional medicine to meet their basic health needs. But due to the range of human activities, unsustainable consumption and production patterns and the growing pressure on natural resources due to climate change make the loss of biodiversity an ever-increasing problem<sup>1</sup>.

A report from UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) on poverty notes that wild products provide 14–23% of the rural poorest income and in times of drought it rises to 42–57% in the drylands of India<sup>2</sup>.

These people are further affected due to the climate change which reduces the livelihood assets of the poor, such as access to water, homes, and infrastructure. The impacts of climate change on natural resources and labour productivity are likely to reduce economic growth; exacerbating poverty through reduced income opportunities.

Under changing climatic conditions, the natural resources are facing increasing threats from climate change. Integrated management and climate change within poverty reduction strategies and food security planning is critical.

Biodiversity conservation and maintenance of ecosystem integrity are essential for reducing people's vulnerability to climate change. Indians are aware of the dangers of climate change and recognize that climate change is already taking place and also recognize the responsibility to do more by way of mitigation as well as by way of adaptation. The conservation of biodiversity, including restoration and rehabilitation, can be a key adaptation strategy to help vulnerable people cope with climate change. For example, mangroves provide coastal protection against rising sea levels and storm surges. Successful conservation of biodiversity depends upon the active involvement of local and indigenous communities and promotion of gender equity. India calls for sustainable policies and for changes in our lifestyle, which united the protection and the sustainable use of our natural resources with measures against climate change and poverty eradication. In September 2000, at the United Nations Millennium Summit, 189 world leaders agreed to a set of time-bound and measurable goals for combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women. These Millennium Development Goals focus the efforts of the world community on achieving significant improvements in people's lives by the year 2015 (refs 1 and 3).

Forests, by acting as a sink for greenhouse gases help mitigate the effects of climate change on forest biodiversity. Similarly, forests are a major issue in climate change politics due to carbon storing capacities. They are complex ecosystems that yield subsistence and income for

more than 60 million indigenous people who are almost wholly dependent on forests; 350 million people who depend on forests to a high degree, and more than 1.6 billion people who depend on forest products to some degree, for survival necessities e.g. for fuel wood, medicinal plants and some foods<sup>4</sup>.

Needless to say, the forestry sector not only offers an environmentally acceptable option for mitigating and avoiding disaster, but also for meeting the forest products needs of local communities for poverty eradication. It additionally has vast potential for mitigating climate change by way of adjusting atmospheric carbon.

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1. UNDP Biodiversity, Climate Change, and the Millennium Development Goals. Online at <http://www.undp.org/biodiversity/md-gandbiodiversity.html>
  2. Opening Remarks on behalf of the Executive Secretary . . . Integration of Climate Change February 2009; [www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2009](http://www.cbd.int/doc/speech/2009)
  3. IUCN/DFID/EC Biodiversity Brief1: the links between biodiversity and poverty. Retrieved from [www.undp.org/biodiversitycd/BioBrief-1poverty.pdf](http://www.undp.org/biodiversitycd/BioBrief-1poverty.pdf)
  4. Gender, Climate Change and Biodiversity, 2008; [www.genderce.net/action/biodiversity.htm](http://www.genderce.net/action/biodiversity.htm)
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