

## MAMMALS OF CHANDOLI NATIONAL PARK OF WESTERN GHATS OF MAHARASHTRA

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*Abstract: The present paper deals with the mammals of Chandoli National Park. The park is partly situated in Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara and Ratnagiri districts of Maharashtra state. The studies on the mammals from Chandoli National Park specify the presence of 34 species of mammals belonging to 30 genera scattered over 19 families. Out of these 5 species are vulnerable, one is threatened, one is near threatened and one is endangered.*

**Key words:** - Mammals, Chandoli, Western Ghats

### INTRODUCTION

India is mega-biodiversity country providing habitat to 410 mammals species [1]. The complex ecosystems were formed due to different kinds of environmental and climatic conditions which automatically support huge number of vertebrates.

Mammals of different region from India have been extensively studied by many workers with well recognized scientific approaches. Rapid urbanization, development of agriculture, industrialization and mining's to fulfill the needs of the society led to the destruction of habitats and forests of India. These developments have posed a warning to wild animals including mammals, those existence is being threatened day by day. Therefore, it is essential to keep an eye on mammalian species time to time existing in our forest and those which are in danger and require special care. On account of this many private and government agencies has put complete ban on hunting and prohibiting the use of wild animals in scientific research. Along with this, many devoted scientists are regularly checking the different animal species in the forest. As for example Sharma [2] reported 30 species of mammals from state of Hariyana and Pande and Pathak [3] have given

magnificent information on the wild life sanctuaries and National Parks form Maharashtra.. They have reported 26 species of mammals from Chandoli National Park. The objective of the present study is to report mammalian species existing in Chandoli National Park of Western Ghats of Maharashtra.

### METHODOLOGY

**Study Area:** Chandoli National Park falls partly in four districts, Viz. Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara and Ratnagiri, in between Koyana and Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuaries in Maharashtra state. This region comes in East side of the Western Ghats.

The total area of the Park is 317.67 sq. k.m. It extends between latitude 17° 3' 29" North to 17° 17' 0" North and longitude 73° 41' 55" East to 73° 51' 55" East. It is about 78 k.m. from Kolhapur. The topographical and climatic conditions change with change in altitude. The Park itself includes semi-evergreen forest and deciduous forest [6]. Due to varied ecological conditions it is rich in flora and fauna.

**Methodology:** To prepare the checklist of mammals of Chandoli National Park, the diurnal

**Table 1:** Checklist of mammals of Chandoli National Park. Note: En – Endangered; Vu – Vulnerable; Th – Threatened; Nr Th – Near threatened; Sch-I – Schedule – I.

Sr.No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
	<b>Order- Primates</b> <b>Family- Cercopithecidae</b>		
1	Bonnet Macaque	<i>Macaca radiata</i> (Geoffroy)	
2	Common Langur	<i>Semnopithecus entellus</i> (Dufresne)	Nr Th
	<b>Order- Carnivora</b> <b>Family- Felidae</b>		
3	Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i> (Linnaeus)	En
4	Leopard / Panther	<i>Panthera pardus</i> (Linnaeus)	Th
5	Leopard Cat	<i>Felis bengalensis</i> (Kerr)	
6	Jungle Cat	<i>Felis chaus</i> (Güldenstaedt)	
	<b>Family- Viverridae</b>		
7	Small Indian Civet	<i>Viverricula indica</i> (Desmarest)	
8	Small Palm Civet	<i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i> (Pallas)	
	<b>Family- Herpestidae</b>		
9	Common Mongoose	<i>Herpestes edwardsi</i> (Geoffroy)	
10	Ruddy-tailed Mongoose	<i>Herpestes smithii</i> (Gray)	
11	Stripe-necked Mongoose	<i>Herpestes vitticollis</i> (Bennett)	
	<b>Family- Canidae</b>		
12	Indian Wild Dog / Dhole	<i>Cuon alpinus</i> (Pallas)	Vu
13	Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i> (Linnaeus)	
	<b>Family- Ursidae</b>		
14	Sloth Bear	<i>Melurus ursinus</i> (Shaw)	Vu
	<b>Family- Hyaenidae</b>		
15	Striped Hyaena	<i>Hyaena hyaena</i> (Linnaeus)	
	<b>Order- Chiroptera</b> <b>Family- Pteropidae</b>		
16	Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus giganteus</i> (Brunnich)	
17	Fulvous Fruit Bat	<i>Rousettus leschenautti</i> (Desmarest)	
18	Short-nosed Fruit Bat	<i>Cynopterus sphinx</i> (Vahl)	
	<b>Family- Rhinolopidae</b>		
19	Lesser-woolly Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus beddomei</i> (Anderson)	
	<b>Family- Vespertilionidae</b>		
20	Indian Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus coramandra</i> (Gray)	
	<b>Order- Rodentia</b> <b>Family- Sciuridae</b>		
21	Indian Giant squirrel	<i>Ratufa indica</i> (Erxleben)	Vu
22	Three-striped Palm Squirrel	<i>Funambulus palmarum</i> (Linnaeus)	
	<b>Family- Muridae</b>		
23	House Rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i> (Linnaeus)	
24	House mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i> (Waterhouse)	
	<b>Family- Hystricidae</b>		
25	Indian Porcupine	<i>Hystrix indica</i> (Kerr)	
	<b>Order- Logomorpha</b> <b>Family- Leporidae</b>		
26	Indian Blacknapped Hare	<i>Lepus nigricollis</i> (Cuvier)	
	<b>Order- Artiodactyla</b> <b>Family- Bovidae</b>		

and nocturnal observations were carried out by visiting study area at monthly intervals during the post-monsoon season from October, 2003 to September, 2006. The work was extended up to December 2008 for getting more comprehensive data about mammals. The identification of animals (mammals) was done by two methods. I) Direct observations of mammals were done in study area mostly near water bodies and were identified by discussion with authorities of National Park and by the help of available literature such as Prater [4] and Bang and Dahlstrom [5]. II) The mammals were also observed and identified by evidences of their presence like tracks, vocalization, scats etc.

We also participated in diurnal and nocturnal visits organized by forest department, by walking trails at rates of 1 to 1.5 km./hr., and recording mammals or their evidences and identified by using available literature. The mammals recorded were categorized as i) endangered, ii) vulnerable, iii) threatened and iv) near threatened. All are listed in table 1.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A comprehensive list of 34 species of mammals in Chandoli National Park was prepared as presented in table 1. A total of 34 species of mammals belonging to 19 families are distributed over 34 genera.

Intentional fires by local people during summer is common. It is damaging the habitats and feeding grounds of mammals in the park area. Intervention of people living in adjoining area of park for their cultural activities, unmanageable visits of large number of tourists with their vehicles even in core zone of the park area is creating a great threat for the survival of mammals. Effective preventive measures from the staff of forest department are required to overcome the same problems.

In the recent past, the mammals have been thoroughly studied from different National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries. Sharma [2] studied the mammals of Hariyana and enlisted 30 species of mammals. Yazdani, et al. [7] reported 48 species of mammals among the 172 species of vertebrates from Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Bombay.

Pande and Pathak in 2005 [3] also studied the mammals of Chandoli National Park. Their list included Indian Fox, Jackal and Tree Shrew. During

our study we never found these species in the National Park. However, occasionally the Indian Fox and Wolf were observed from the small villages and their periphery of Sangli district and Miraj tahsil.

Out of 34 species of mammals found in Chandoli National Park, 5 species (Indian Wild Dog (*Cuon alpinus*), Sloth Bear (*Melurus ursinus*), Indian Giant Squirrel (*Ratufa indica*), Gaur (*Bos gaurus*) and Four-horned Antelope (*Tetracerus quadricornis*) were found to be vulnerable. Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) was threatened; the Hanuman Langur (*Semnopithecus entellus*) was found to be near threatened and Tigers (*Panthera tigris*) were the endangered ones.

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