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Bigger and bolder than the common House Rat, the inquisitive Sahyadri Forest Rat is a resident of the top storeys of the jungles of the Western Ghats, rarely making visits to the undergrowth, zooming across the dense canopy on the highways of tree vines in its nocturnal cruises, choosing between the options of its favourite insects, fruits, and bark on the menu for its supper. Shot at Palthope Estate by S. Molur, ZOO; posted on 27 Feb 2019.

Just like the curious chiaroscuro on its body and tail, the Ashy Prinia is a bountiful bundle of business and play. As it hops about among the bushes in search of its favourite insects, this small, reticent songbird will tease you with its sharp calls only to disappear just when you think you have spotted it! Shot at Coimbatore by B. Ravichandran, ZOO; posted on 09 Feb 2019.



Typically green or brown, the notorious 'preying' mantis is a master of disguise with a taste for live flesh. Its prominent forelegs, often folded together as it lies waiting in ambush, have formidable spikes with which it tells the fate of its hapless prey at lightning speed. Shot at Coimbatore by B. Ravichandran, ZOO; posted on 14 Jan 2019.

The Malabar Stream Lily, described in 2012, is found only in the semi-shaded stretches of four seasonal streams in Kasargod and Kannur districts in Kerala, India. This remarkable ecosystem architect is endowed with sweet-scented white flowers and large, flat, strap-shaped, 2-3m long leaves. Shot in Kerala by S. Molur, ZOO; posted on 22 Nov 2018.



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Captions by Vidya Mary George, ZOO.