

Colour abnormality of *Macaca radiata* at Grizzled Giant Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu, India



Leucistic Bonnet Macaque with coconut at Grizzled Giant Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu

Observation of colour abnormalities among wild mammals is a remote event because these abnormalities are very rare (Robinson 1973; Caro 2005). Inherited colour defects, such as albinism and partial albinism (leucism), are well known in several animal species. On 29 March 2018, we observed a medium-sized male Bonnet Macaque feed on coconut wastage at Ayyanar Kovil Beat in Rajapalayam Range in Srivilliputhur Grizzled Giant Squirrel Sanctuary (9.509N & 77.455E, 140m), Tamil Nadu. It was totally pale golden-brown in colour, but the eyes

were normal coloured. There are very few records of colour aberration in macaques. Hill (1933) and Fooden (1979) reported total albinism in Toque Macaque *M. sinica* from Sri Lanka. Hill (1937) and Fooden (1981) also reported albinism in Bonnet Macaque *M. radiata* from Trivandrum Zoo, southern India, in 1936. Bahadur (1942) observed albinism in Rhesus Macaque *M. mulatta* from Pratabgarh (South Rajputana) in captivity. Anil et al. (2012) recorded total albinism in Bonnet Macaque from Goa. Leucism was also reported from Bonnet Macaque

in London Zoo by Ogilby in 1838. Fooden (1981) reported a pale golden-brown sub-adult female with reduced pigmentation in the US National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC. Since our present finding corroborates with that of Fooden (1981), the Bonnet Macaque can be said to have been affected by leucism, a colour abnormality due to genetic variation on its coat.

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