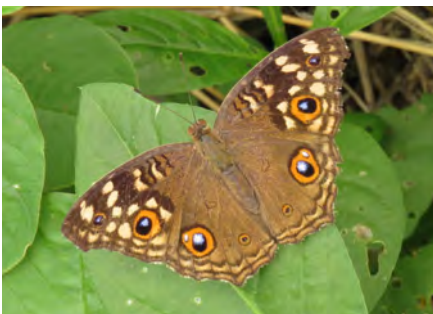


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The thick and slightly pokey fur on its back gives the Spiny-backed Tree Mouse its common name. As its name further suggests, this small mammal lives in the canopy of tall trees in undisturbed jungles of the Western Ghats. It moves about actively at night, travelling between trees using vines and socializing and foraging for food on high branches of native trees. The vulnerable rodent is very docile during the day and tends to curl up and sleep when handled. Shot at Coorg by S. Molur, ZOO; posted on 22 Jul 2019.



The Lemon Pansy loves to stay close to the ground and can be commonly seen basking in the sun with its wings wide open. The lively butterfly is also an expert at camouflage—during the dry season, it dulls the brilliant eyespots and marvellous patterns on its brown wings to lie low in the leaf litter. Shot at Coimbatore by B. Ravichandran, ZOO; posted on 18 Jul 2019.



The Critically Endangered White Himalayan Lily *Lilium polyphyllum* is a rare, striking sight in its habitat in the northwestern Himalaya. The medicinal herb was first described by J.F. Royle in 1839 and can be easily identified by its small leaves and bell-shaped, pendant white flowers that sport many purple spots and stripes. Shot at Chamba by V. Ahuja, ZOO; posted on 16 Jul 2019.



Common Mynas are an all too familiar sight in most neighbourhoods, hopping about in their dark overalls and bright legs, bullying other species with their claims to food and shelter. By dusk, the quarrelsome birds retire from their busy day to gather in large flocks in communal roosts, where they fluff their feathers and bob their heads in unison to bid the sun a rather loud and unpleasant farewell. Shot at Coimbatore by B. Ravichandran, ZOO; posted on 09 Jul 2019.

We bring to you every week shots and tidbits of incredibly diverse species from around the natural world! Follow us on Instagram to be part of a growing community that celebrates our natural heritage: <https://www.instagram.com/threatenedtaxa/>

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Captions by Vidya Mary George, ZOO.