



Records of Brown Palm Civet *Paradoxurus jerdoni* in Satara district, Maharashtra: extension of known range in Western Ghats, India



Additional records of Brown Palm Civet in Satara district, Maharashtra

The Brown Palm Civet or Jerdon's Palm Civet *Paradoxurus jerdoni* Blanford, 1885 (Order: Carnivora; Family: Viverridae) is a small carnivore endemic to the Western Ghats of India (Rajamani et al. 2002; Pradhan & Talmale 2012). Its body colour is chocolate-brown; head, neck and limbs are darker; shoulders more buff and flanks are more grey. The tail is proportionately longer than the body and its tip is variable from pale to brown. A distinctive feature is the reversed direction of hair growth on the nape (Menon 2003). It is confined to the tropical wet-evergreen forests, and plantations with native trees as shade (such as coffee and cardamom) in the Western

Ghats ranges in the states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa and southern Maharashtra (Rajamani et al. 2002; Mudappa et al. 2010; Bhosale et al. 2013). It is largely arboreal, nocturnal and although omnivorous, it is predominantly frugivorous in habit (Bhosale et al. 2013). It is listed as Least Concern in the IUCN Redlist of Threatened Species (Muddapa et al. 2016) and is included in Schedule II, Part II of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (as amended in 2006).

The locations of sightings reported here were made by the first author (AS), who sighted the species opportunistically while



conducting a study on the breeding biology and distribution of some amphibian species from northern Western Ghats of Satara district, Maharashtra during 2013–16. The records are a compilation of sightings of the brown palm civet in Satara district, Maharashtra by the first author and his team including one sighted by Dr. Anand Padhye, Pune in Table 1.

A few published reviews and records report the known distribution of the Brown Palm Civet in the Western Ghats (viz. Pradhan & Kurup 2001; Rajamani et al., 2002; Kumara & Singh 2007; Mudappa et al. 2007; Bhosale et al. 2013; Chunekar 2014). Rajamani et al. (2002) reviewed

the former and recent (from 1884 to 2002) distributional records of Brown Palm Civets and indicated their distributional range from the southern extremity of the Western Ghats in Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (08° 48' N & 77° 25' E) in Tamil Nadu to Dudhsagar, Bhagwan Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary (15° 19' N & 74° 19' E) in Goa in the north (Fig. 1a). More recently, Bhosale et al. (2013) reported the species' occurrence in Sangli, Sindhudurg and Satara districts of Maharashtra and pointed out that the distribution of the Brown Palm Civets extends about 275 kms. north from the earlier reported records (i.e. Goa) along the northern Western Ghats, into the state of Maharashtra (i.e. up to Satara district; Fig. 1b).

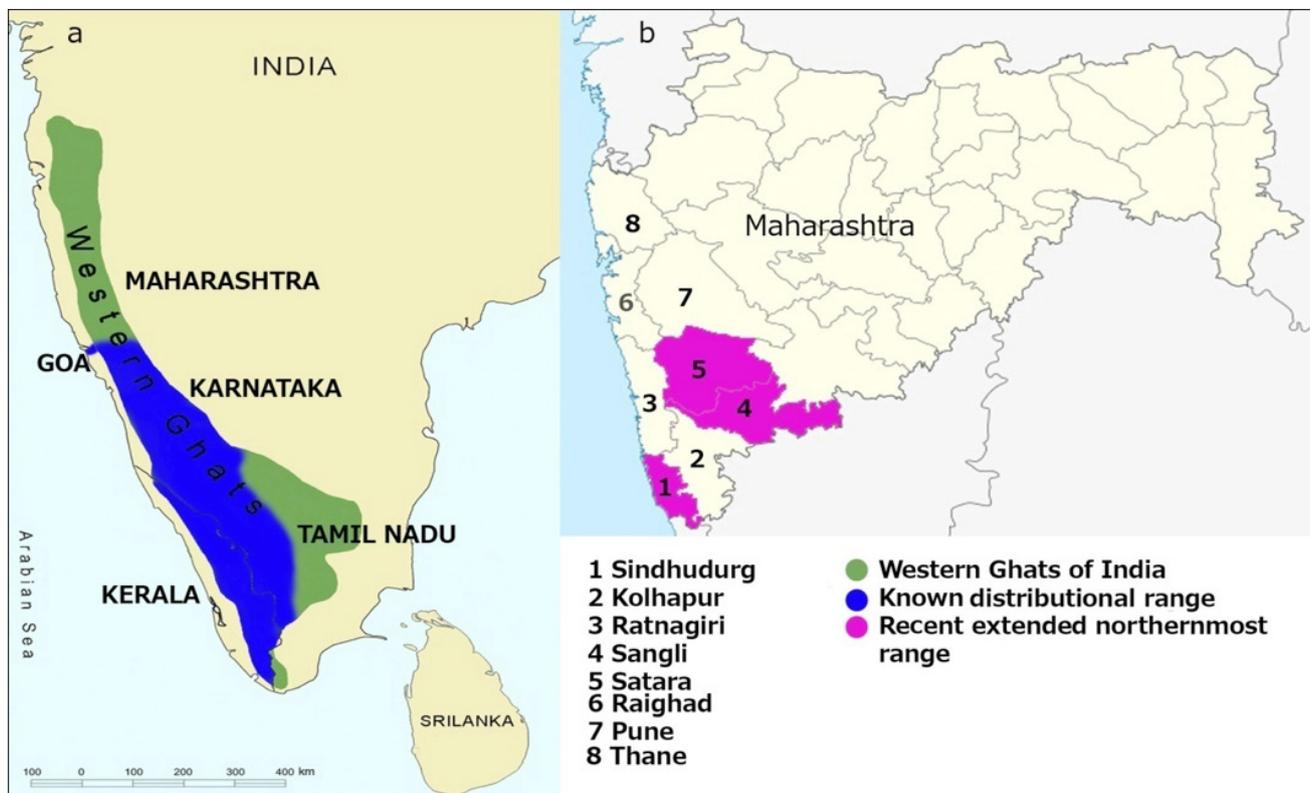


Fig. 1a. Known distributional range (prior to Bhosale et al. 2013) of Brown Palm Civet in Western Ghats, India. Fig. 1b. Recent extended range of Brown Palm Civet in the state of Maharashtra (Bhosale et al. 2013).



Table 1. Additional records of Brown Palm Civets in Satara district, Maharashtra.

	Date	Locality	Co-ordinates	No. of civets	Habitat	Reference
a) Previous record:						
1.	07&12.xii.2013	Wai region	18.018°N & 73.674°E	1+1	-	Bhosale et al. (2013)
b) Recent records:						
2.	21.iv.2008	Vasota, Met Indavali	17.661°N & 73.696°E	1	On tree, Evergreen Forest	Dr. Anand Padhye, Pune (pers.comm)
3.	13.i.2015	Kaas	17.705°N & 73.806°E	3	Semi-evergreen forest	Team of WLP RS*
4.	17.i.2015	Pratapgad, Mahabaleshwar	17.941°N & 73.579°E	1	Evergreen Forest	-do-
5.	04.iii.2015	Bawdhan, Wai	17.939°N & 73.889°E	1	On Mango tree near human habitation	-do-
6.	18.iii.2015	Koyananagar	17.403°N & 73.7294°E	1	Evergreen Forest	-do-
7.	24.xi.2015	Kaas-Bamnoli Road	17.716°N & 73.800°E	2	Evergreen Forest	-do-
8.	21.i.2016	Lingmala, Mahabaleshwar	17.930°N & 73.980°E	1	Evergreen Forest	-do-

* Wildlife Protection and Research Society.

The Table 1 and Fig 2. shows the additional records of Brown Palm Civets in northern Western Ghats of Satara district, Maharashtra. These records fill in the gap in the intervening regions south of the northern record for the species (Bhosale et al. 2013).



Fig 2. Additional records of Brown Palm Civet in Satara district, Maharashtra.

Therefore, it would be essential to survey (1) areas between Goa and Sangli district particularly for their occurrence in Kolhapur and Ratnagiri districts falling under the northern Western Ghats of Maharashtra State as there are no published reports from these areas, and (2) the surrounding districts (viz. Pune, Raigad, Thane; Fig. 1b), particularly areas containing wet and moist tropical forest for the presence of the species.

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