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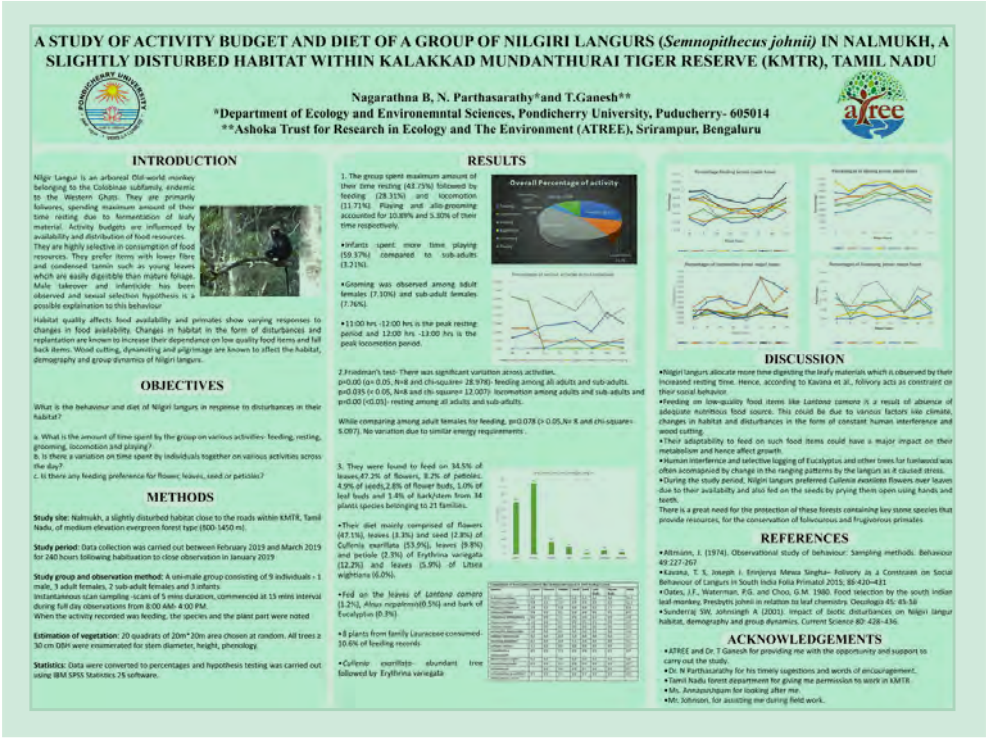
A study of activity budge and diet of a group of Nilgiri Langurs in Nalmukh, a slighty disturbed habitat within Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR), Tamil Nadu

Abstract

Anthropogenic factors have a serious impact on a species' habitat affecting the abundance and distribution of the species food resources. In this study the behaviour and the diet of Nilgiri Langurs located within a slightly disturbed habitat of KMTR, Tamil Nadu was studied.



A STUDY OF ACTIVITY BUDGET AND DIET OF A GROUP OF NILGIRI LANGURS (*Semnopithecus johnii*) IN NALMUKH, A SLIGHTLY DISTURBED HABITAT WITHIN KALAKKAD MUNDANTHURAI TIGER RESERVE (KMTR), TAMIL NADU

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INTRODUCTION

OBJECTIVES

METHODS

RESULTS

DISCUSSION

REFERENCES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The habitat was subjected to disturbances in the form of felling for fuelwood and other products and constant human interference. The study was carried out in the post monsoon season from February to March on the activity budget of a single group of Nilgiri Langurs. The findings of the study indicate that the group spent 43.75% of their time resting, 28.31% feeding, 11.71% on locomotion and the rest on social interactions (16.23%).

Feeding records showed that they fed on 34 plant species belonging to 21 families. Of these, 8 plant species belonging to Lauraceae was consumed the most accounting for 23.5% of the families.

The diet mainly comprised of *Cullenia exarillata* flowers (47.1%), *Erythrina variegata* leaves (9.8%) and *Litsea wightiana* leaves (5.9%). The group also fed on the leaves of *Lantana camara* (1.16%), *Alnus nepalensis* (0.5%) and the bark of *Eucalyptus* (0.27%). Nilgiri Langurs that are primarily arboreal in nature would descend to as low as 5 metres or below from the ground to consume the leaves of *Lantana camara*, *Maesa indica* and *Solanum erianthum*. The adaptability to feed on such food items could possibly have an impact on their metabolism and overall growth.

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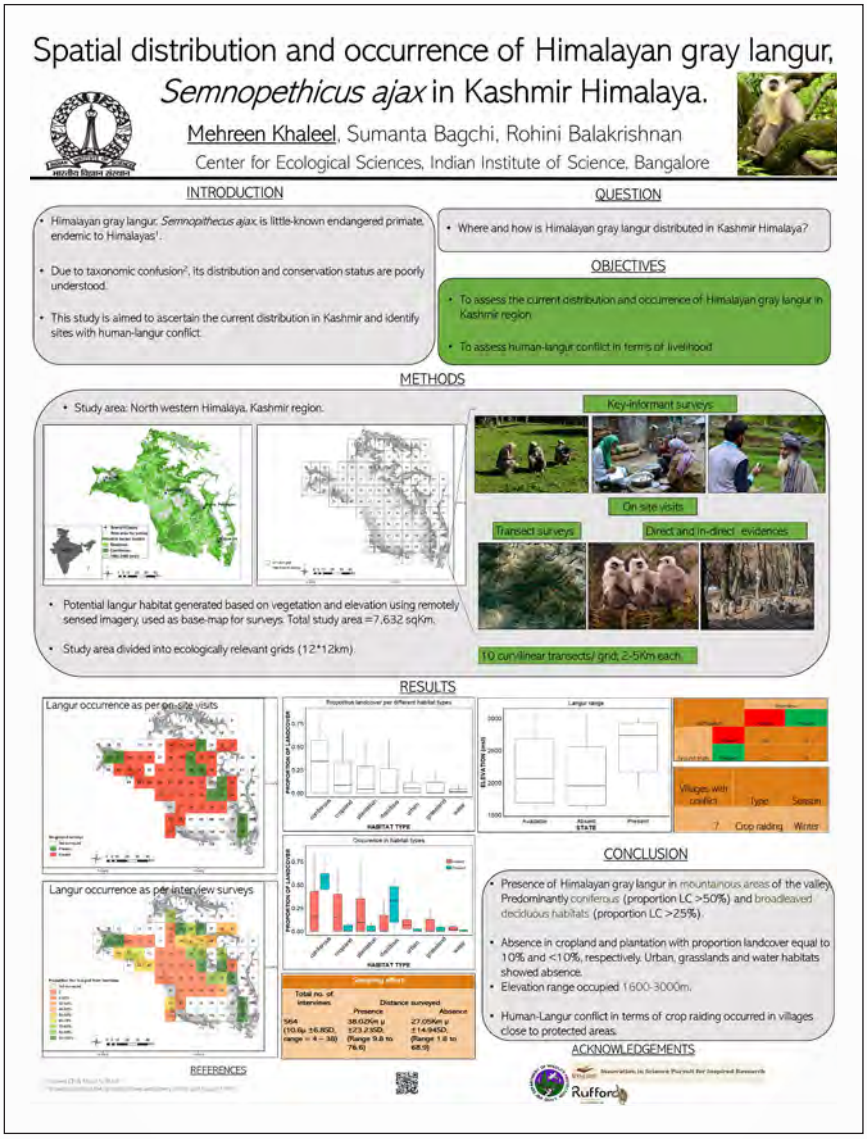
Spatial occurrence and distribution of Himalayan Gray Langur in Kashmir Himalaya

Abstract

Himalayan Gray Langur, *Semnopithecus ajax*, is little-known endangered primate, endemic to Himalayas. It was initially reported to be present in Chamba, Kistawar and Dachigam National park. Its distribution in Kashmir Himalaya is poorly known. In Kashmir and adjoining regions, it is likely at risk of extinction due to land use change and conflict with humans. In this study, we aim to ascertain the current distribution in Kashmir region, and identify sites which face human-langur conflict. Using well-structured questionnaire and on-ground surveys we have attempted to determine the spatial distribution in the region.

This study shows that Himalayan gray langur are distributed in the protected mountainous forest areas of Kashmir. They are largely forest dwelling in habit and prefer an elevation within 1600-3000 m. The results suggest a wider range of Himalayan Gray Langur in Kashmir which was previously thought to be restricted in a small range. Conflict in the form of crop raiding was found in the villages around protected areas. The current distribution serves as a base-map for various management policies towards the conservation of this high-altitude primate. Moreover, insights about the conflict will help managers in developing ideas to reduce and prevent conflict. Due to the presence of this species in the broadleaved deciduous and coniferous forests of Kashmir, it becomes important to preserve and protect these habitats for its survival.



Keywords: High altitude primates, *Semnopithecus ajax*, distribution, conflict, Kashmir Himalayas.

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