

Locality records of Crab-eating Mongoose from Nepal



Image 1. Dead Crab-eating Mongoose *Herpestes urva* from Barpak, Gorkha (© Shyam Basnet).

On 12 June, 2018, a single Crab-eating Mongoose *Herpestes urva* was found dead due to unknown cause in Dhodeni Village ward number 4, Azirkot Rural Municipality, Gorkha District. Six months later two individuals were photographed by camera traps at two different stations (in Kalimati and Mahadevtaar villages, Bhimsen Thapa Rural Municipality, Gorkha District). The species was camera trapped at an elevation of 607m in close proximity of the settlement around 1km where human intrusions and grazing were excessive. On 21 March 2020, we photographed a single Crab-eating Mongoose from Rupa Lake, Kaski District in marshy agricultural field (Fig.1). The species was recorded at 15.51h with a total of three photographs taken from Coolpix Nikon

P1000 camera. It was sighted at an elevation of 590m in the close proximity of <30m water source, ca. 180m from the nearest human settlement. This note presents recent records of Crab-eating Mongoose from Gorkha and Kaski districts, Nepal.

Fry (1925) recorded Crab-eating Mongoose in Gorkha which was also the first record from that district in Nepal. Our record lies 35km north (Azirkot; death record) and 30km east (Bhimsen rural municipality; camera trapped) of previous record from Gorkha (Table 1). As mentioned in Jnawali et al. (2011), Rayamajhi et al. (2019), and Pandeya & Khanal (2019) of the distributional range, we also recorded the species in the tropical region from Gorkha (Sal *Shorea robusta* dominated forest), Kaski

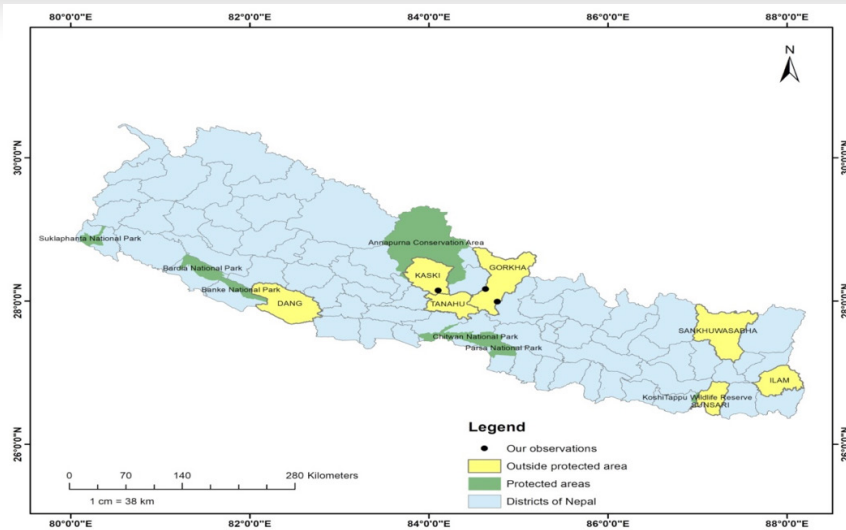


Fig. 1. Distribution of Crab-eating Mongoose in Nepal.

District (Image 1,2). Our recording with <5m distance from the nearest water source, <500m from the nearest human settlement are similar with (Pandeya &

Khanal 2019). According to local people, the species is frequently seen in the paddy terraces near the streams during the morning and evening time searching and

feeding on the crabs, frogs and small fishes as also described by (Chuang & Lee 1997; Thapa, 2013). Jnawali et al. (2011) suggested wider occurrence of species range in the country. In light of these, our record corroborates the verifiable evidences from Gorkha and Kaski districts of Nepal. Species spatial and temporal distribution information, generated nationally at large scale is deemed necessary for fabrication of conservation management plan. Rigorous camera trapping survey and specific species focused



Image 2. Camera trap photograph of Crab-eating Mongoose from Bhimsen Thapa Rural Municipality, Nepal.

Table 1. Spatial distribution of Crab-eating Mongoose in Nepal.

	Location	GPS coordinates	Elevation	Habitat	Citation	Remarks
1	Shuklaphanta National Park	-	-	-	Poudyal et al. 2019	Camera trapping record
2	Bardiya National Park	-	-	-	BaNP/NTNC-BCP 2019.	Camera trapping record
3	Chitwan National Park	-	-	Sub-tropical Deciduous, evergreen sal forest	Rayamajhi et al. 2019	Camera trapping record
4	Annapurna Conservation Area	-	-	-	Suwal & Verheugt 1995; Majupuria & Kumar (Majupuria) 2006; Jnawali et al. 2011	Unverifiable record
5	Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve	-	-	-	Jnawali et al. 2011	Unverifiable record
6	Illam (Mai Pokhari) District	-	-	-	Jnawali et al. 2011	Unverifiable record
7	Dharan forest, Dharan and Sunsari District	-	-	-	Baral in litt. 2013	Unverifiable record
8	Sankhusawaha District	(27.27611 N & 87.3588 E), (27.2747 N, 87.3583 E) & (27.2752 N, 87.3566 E)	1201m, 1264m & 1198m	Paddy field and wetland (sim in Nepali)	Thapa 2013	Photographic evidence
9	Parsa National Park	(27.3775 N, 84.80583 E)	330m	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i> grassland with sal dominated forest	Sharma & Lamichhane 2017	Camera trapping record
10	Banke National Park	-	-	-	BaNP/NTNC-BCP 2019.	Camera trapping record
11	Tinjure Milke Jaljale complex	-	-	-	Rai et al. 2018	Camera trapping record
12	Tanahun District	28.05611 N & 84.42055 S	571m	-	Tashi R. Ghale photograph	Photographic evidence
13	Gorkha District	27.98947 N & 84.76437 S	607m	Marshy agricultural land, stream bank with sal dominated forest	Present study	Photographic evidence
14	Dang District	28.00596 N & 82.53140 E	703m	Deciduous sal forest at the foothill of Chure region	Pandeya & Khanal 2019	Photographic evidence
15	Kaski District	28.14472 N & 84.10277	590m	Marshy agricultural land	Present study	Photographic evidence



Image 3. Crab-eating Mongoose in marshy agricultural landscape from Rupa Lake, Kaski District (© Milan Baral).

direct and indirect survey should be done outside the protected areas system to exaggerate the concrete data on the ecology and threats being faced.

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