



A case of mummification in Indian Flying Fox

Mummification is exceptional in monotocous species like sheep, goat and cattle, often observed in polytocous species like swine, bitch and cat wherein single or multiple fetuses can undergo mummification without much effect on developing fetuses (Roberts 2004). Mummification can be manifested as papyraceous type with dry, stiff fetoplacental unit without any exudates as reported in dogs, cats, cattle, buffalo, and sharks (Barder 1996; Windsor 2016) or can be haematic or chocolate type characterized by presence of viscous adhesive material over fetal mummy perceived in cattle, buffalo, and dogs (Sandoval-Castillo & Villavicencio-Garayzar 2008).. The present case put on a record of mummification in the Indian Flying Fox *Pteropus medius* in the wild.

The Indian flying fox is a polygynandrous species, and breeds yearly from July to October. Births occur from February to May. Gestation period is typically 140–150 days. The average birth



Female Indian Flying Fox *Pteropus medius* with mummified fetus.
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Dry mummified fetus having chocolate colour. © Pranav Vaghshiya.

number is 1 to 2 pups (Nowak 1990). Among members of the genus *Pteropus*, pups are carried by the mother for the first few weeks of life, with weaning occurring around five months of age. Males do not participate in parental care. Young bats learn to fly at approximately 11 weeks of age.

Reproductive maturity occurs at 18–24 months (Nowak 1990).

Junagadh Agriculture University campus has a large communal roosting colony of Indian Flying Fox *Pteropus medius*. Here, an adult female fruit bat was rescued from



a residential area located in the outskirts of Junagadh City, Gujarat, India, on 10 February 2019 by a volunteer of Vasundhara Nature Club. The animal was unable to fly and was hanging in its natural position outside of a window. Fruits and honey juice slurry was offered to animal with tube feeding. Next morning on 11 February animal expelled a dead mummified fetus. The fetus was dry and had dark chocolate colour. By the evening the animal also died.

References

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Pranav Vaghashiya¹ & Harsh Prajapati²

¹Vasundhara Nature Club, 193 Bapunagar, Joshipura, Junagadh, Gujarat 362002, India.

²7 Astha 2 Bungalow, Vatral, Ahemdabad, Gujarat 382418, India.

Emails: ¹pranav4940@gmail.com (corresponding author), ²harshbprajapati04@gmail.com

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