

A note on Breeding of Rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulata*) at the Guindy Children's Park, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

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The Guindy Children's Park (GCP) was established on 14.04.1959 and it was recognized as small zoo by the Central Zoo Authority. The park cover an extent of 22 acres and it is maintained by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department.

The GCP has exhibited two species of primates, Rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulata*) and other species Bonnet macaque (*Macaca radiata*). This species is included in the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, under Schedule I Part I. Rhesus macaque are maintained in circular enclosure (size – 10m. dia. and 5 m. height). The enclosure has bifurcated into two compartments especially for the breeding and non-breeding group. At present 5 adult males and 2 adult females housed in one compartment and another compartment reserved for quarantine purpose. Two sub-adult macaques (male & female) housed in separate enclosure to avoid in fighting.

The GCP *ex-situ* conservation centre has been maintaining *Macaca mulata* in their collection since 1994. The group of animals was received in the following sex ratio 1:1 from Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur, 4:2 from Head quarter range Chennai and 2:2 from public during the year 1994 and 2001 respectively. The captive population gave birth in two occasions during the year 1996 and 2008. A total of 10 animals are maintained by GCP in its collection. After the interval of six years, the adult female has given birth to one male baby on 21.05.2014. The new born baby was cute, healthy and suckling milk from the mother more frequently. The young one was always hanging and hugging with the mother more often. As for as privacy is concerned, the mother and baby has been separated from the group to the adjacent enclosure to create secluded condition i.e. quarantine compartment. The enclosure has been covered by shade net to avoid disturbance from the visitors.

The following food items offered once in a day.
Rice - 25 gms, Ground nut - 25 gms, Orange and Guava - 1 no, Choked Bengal gram - 15 gms, Cabbage - 50 gms, Green (Different - 100 gms), Bread slice - 4 nos, Boiled egg - 1 no

The following food items offered alternate day.
Soya chungs - 20 gms, Carrot - 25 gms, Grapes - 50 gms and Honey - 10 gms

In addition to above the following seasonal Fruits are also offered.

Custard apple : 50g gms
Goosberry : 25 gms



Feeding and play behaviour of the *Macaca mulata*

Jamun : 25 gms
Indianplum : 25 gms
Jack fruit : 50 gms

To improve the health status of the mother and baby, utmost care has been provided to the mother to improve the secretion of milk to nourish the new born baby. The usual animal keeper is alone allowed to clean the enclosure and to provide food as per the schedule and to monitor them.

Occasionally offered neem leaves (*Azadiracta indica*) in empty stomach to avoid internal parasite to some extent. Apart from the food supplements such as Dexorange and Multivitamins are also provided.

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