

AN INDIAN PANGOLIN *MANIS CRASSICAUDATA* FOUND WOUNDED IN DARRAH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, RAJASTHAN

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On 24 September 2002, a male Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) was found at Kolipura in Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary (24°37'-25°0'N; 76°40'-76°12'E), Rajasthan about 35km from Kota. It was lying wounded among the bushes at a little distance away from the road. On cursory examination, it looked as if a heavy vehicle had crushed it at the level of its lower back. The animal (Fig. 1) was in a state of shock and was brought to the Veterinary Polyclinic at Kota. The scratches and minor wounds were treated with an antibiotic spray. Antibiotic injections, vitamins and corticosteroids were given through intramuscular route.

The Pangolin was heavily infested with ticks, for which 1ml. Ivermectin was injected on 27 September 2002 after which, its prognosis looked good, as the antibiotics also had their effect and it looked sprightly. It started lapping milk and raw egg concoction on its own, but was unable to support its hind body or move its hind legs. It was passing urine and also evacuated on a number of occasions. Its faecal matter primarily contained of earth mixed with undigested insect parts. The pangolin suddenly succumbed on 1 October 2002. Its post-mortem revealed badly smashed sacral vertebrae and the veterinarians ascertained shock as the cause of death.

On 24 September 2002, when the Pangolin was recuperating, it weighed 18kg. Its body length was measured to be 85cm and tail length 60cm. The measurements are greater than that recorded by Prater (1998), but lower than that of Sharma (2002). Sharma's specimen measured 170cm and weighed 38kg while Prater recorded 105-120cm as the body length for *M. crassicaudata*. The Kolipura specimen had a total of 43 rows of scales and each row had 11-13 scales. These were 19 rows of scales on the body, 14 on the tail and 10 on the head.

Pangolin is included in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and is a nocturnal animal. The observations suggest that the Pangolin was crushed by some heavy vehicle inside

the Sanctuary. Such accidents can be avoided, if ban on night-time driving inside protected areas is rigorously followed.

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References

- Prater, S.H. (1988). *The Book of Indian Animals*. Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai, 302pp.
- Sharma, S.K. (2002). Abnormal weight and length of the Indian Pangolin *Manis crassicaudata* Gray, 1827, from Sirohi District, Rajasthan. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 99(1): 103.



Figure 1. Wounded Indian Pangolin *Manis crassicaudata* at Kolipura, Kota