

## 2. AN OBSERVATION ON A MOTHER CARRYING DEAD INFANT IN THE BONNET MACAQUE, *MACACA RADIATA*

We saw a group of bonnet macaques (*Macaca radiata*) on 5th July, 1996 at Muthanga area in Wynaad Wildlife Sanctuary, in Northern Kerala. An adult female was on the ground carrying an infant, repeatedly trying to make it cling to her body by placing it to her chest. Whenever the mother attempted to get up, the infant kept falling down. We soon found that the infant was dead. The mother repeated her attempts, by jolting the body of the infant gently. On seeing us, the mother scooped up the infant with her left arm, raced into the nearest bamboo clump and sat inside safely. The mother started inspecting the body by smelling the anal region and the face. A juvenile female which had been watching the whole sequence for a long time tried to touch the baby, and was allowed by the mother only after several attempts. The juvenile also inspected the dead infant by smelling the anal region and face.

We saw the mother with the dead infant for four days. By the third day, the body had started smelling and was maggot ridden. The mother inspected the anal region less frequently. The female macaque had restricted its feeding and movement to the bamboo clumps. Other members of the group were in the nearby area on all these days. On the

morning of the fourth day, the mother placed the dead infant on the ground and fed within a visible distance. The juvenile was with her, throughout watching the dead infant. On the fifth day, the dead infant was missing and we assumed that the mother had joined the group abandoning the dead infant.

Mothers carrying dead infants for several days have been recorded in Crab eating monkey (*Macaca irus*) and Hybrid Rhesus (Yerkes, 1915), in Gorillas and Langurs (Eimerl and DeVore, 1976) and in Baboons (Zuckerman, 1981). According to Zuckerman (1981) the behaviour of the mother with the dead infant could be a manifestation of maternal sentiment or maternal instinct.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We thank Dr. P.S. Easa, Scientist, KFRI for comments on this note.

October 23, 1996      M. BALASUBRAMANIAN  
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## 3. DISCOVERY OF GOLDEN LANGUR (*PRESBYTIS GEEI*) AT KAKOIJANA RESERVE FOREST, ASSAM.

On 5th November, 1995 we, a group of nine members of NATURE'S FOSTER, an environmental activist group, conducting a field trip at Kakoijana Reserve Forest along with two Forest Officials,

came across some langurs. After careful observations we confirmed that they were the golden langur (*Presbytis geei*). This was a great surprise because the occurrence of golden langur in Kakoijana



Balasubramanian, M and Sabu Jahas, S. A. 1997. "An observation of mother carrying dead infant in the bonnet macaque, *Macaca radiata*." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 94, 143–143.

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