

DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY,
ORISSA VETERINARY COLLEGE,
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NANDANKANAN BIOLOGICAL PARK,
BARANG, CUTTACK, ORISSA,
September 15, 1987.

A. T. RAO

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2. REACTION TOWARDS SICK ANIMALS BY CONSPECIFICS IN THE COMMON GREY LANGUR (*PRESBYTIS ENTELLUS*)

The intriguing sight of the attempted revival of sick and wounded in the common grey langur (*P. entellus*) was noticed on four occasions. Two of the cases involved road accidents while the other two were caused by food poisoning and extreme low temperatures. Attempts at revival were made in only three of the four observed cases, all the three sick individuals being adult females. Two of the three adult females recovered while the third which was fatally wounded died.

The behavioural repertoire involved in the revival of all three adult females was strikingly alike and involved the following sequence:

- 1) Fellow group members sit around the sick animal;
- 2) partially lifting up, followed by vigorous

shaking of the prostrate sick/wounded individual by a resident conspecific adult female;

- 3) jumping a few times (2-5) on the ventro-thoracic and abdominal region of the sick/wounded animal by a second adult female;
- 4) The second female seated herself atop the body of the sick/wounded individual while other group members sniffed at its face.

The fourth incident involved the resident adult male of a unimale bisexual group. Diagnosis established the causal factor of death of the adult male as food poisoning. No attempt, what so ever, was made by fellow group members to reanimate the ailing adult male.

Besides bringing to light the inborn capabilities of langurs to attempt to revive their

sick, these four instances give us a deeper insight into the social dynamics of the Hanuman langur. The attempt, by fellow group members to revive only female conspecifics and not the resident adult male possibly relates to kinship that is prevalent among females, who form the stable core of the langur social organization. An adult male in a unimale bisexual group enjoys only a

"transitory adult male" status, i.e. he is replaced by another adult male at some point in time. Further more the probability of relatedness between the adult male and the permanent members of a bisexual group is most probably low or nil. This could possibly account for the absence of co-operation (in this case attempt of revival) towards the ailing male.

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY,
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JAIPUR-302 004,
February 28, 1987.

R. MATHUR
A. LOBO

3. HYENA PREDATING ON A DOMESTIC CALF

On 19.11.1986 at about 6 a.m. while walking in an area near Chemmanatham Dam, bordering Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary, I noticed a striped Hyena dragging a calf along a footpath towards us. When it realised our presence it disappeared behind the bushes. I searched but could not locate the animal. In about 20 minutes villagers came enquiring about a Hyena which had carried away a calf. The mother of the calf was tethered, in the village when two Hyenas attacked the calf, which was about 10 days old and was sickly and dragged

it away, before they could reach the spot. It is possible, they said that the calf was already dead when the Hyena carried it away. We all searched the area and saw 2 pups of the hyena playing. When they saw us they disappeared into a hole. Though I knew that there were Hyena dens in the area, this was the first times pups had been sighted. There were fresh drag marks leading to and disappearing into the hole. We quietly left the place.

WILDLIFE WARDEN,
MUDUMALAI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY,
UDHAGAMANDALAM 643 001,
TAMIL NADU,
December 18, 1986.

J. MANGALRAJ JOHNSON

4. THE WOLF (*CANIS LUPUS*) OF MEWAR REGION, RAJASTHAN

Udaipur City is surrounded by the Aravali Hills, East of Udaipur, beyond Debari gate there is a vast plain interspersed by hillocks. Before independence this plain teemed with antelope and other game animals. Wolves were

in fairly good number in the plains. In hilly terrain where there were barren patches wolves were often met with. Most of the hilly area was dominated by the leopard *Panthera pardus*.



Mathur, R and Lobo, A. 1987. "REACTION TOWARDS SICK ANIMALS BY CONSPECIFICS IN THE COMMON GRAY LANGUR PRESBYTIS-ENTELLUS." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 84, 421-422.

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