

Table 1: Morphometric measurements (in millimetres) of *Megaderma lyra* and *Megaderma spasma* specimens caught from the temple roost in Lamheti village in Jabalpur Madhya Pradesh

| Name of the body part | <i>Megaderma lyra</i> | <i>Megaderma spasma</i> | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| | Male (n=1) | Male (n=1) | Female (n=1) |
| Head and Body length | 80.2 | 65.2 | 66.3 |
| Hind foot | 15.9 | 14.9 | 14.8 |
| Forearm | 64.3 | 55.7 | 55.5 |
| Ear | 36.7 | 34.2 | 34.6 |
| Wing span | 410.4 | 308 | 311 |
| Nose leaf | 9.4 | 6.1 | 6.2 |

inside a temple in Karnataka, the co-existence of *M. lyra* and *M. spasma* has been rarely seen in India.

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2. SECOND RECORD OF ALBINO FIVESTRIPED PALM SQUIRREL *FUNAMBULUS PENNANTI* WROUGHTON FROM UDAIPUR, RAJASTHAN¹

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The Fivestriped Palm Squirrel *Funambulus pennanti* has distinct five pale strips on its grayish-brown or olive-brown body (Menon 2003; Prater 2005). A number of local races are recognized on the basis of differences in the lightness or darkness of the coat, or variations in the tones of the dorsal strips (Prater 2005). Unlike the characters mentioned in the guide books, we sighted a solitary, white Fivestriped Palm Squirrel in the residential area of north Udaipur (Rajasthan) from mid-July 2005. On close observation of the animal, we found that the Squirrel was albino with only a small brownish patch in the middle of the dorsal side of the body (Eds: photographic evidence provided); the eyes were red. This is the second case of albinism in the Fivestriped Palm Squirrel from Rajasthan. Although, the first record of albino Fivestriped from Rajasthan was by Sharma (2004); albinism in the Fivestriped Squirrel has been reported only thrice in India (Mahabal *et al.* 2005).

According to Mahabal *et al.* (2005), albinism is said to

be rare in rodents. This is also evident from the earlier works (Rajgopalan 1967; Pradhan 1975; Chaturvedi and Ghosh 1984).

The reported albino squirrel was sighted throughout a cloudy day but its movement was restricted to morning and evening hours on sunny days. This albino individual lived in a house under construction

The solitary individual was very alert. As soon as we approached, it would escape. A distance of more than 6 m was maintained while taking observations and photographing. How long it may be sighted after the house is occupied cannot be predicted.

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3. OCCURRENCE OF ASIATIC BRUSHTAILED PORCUPINE *ATHERURUS MACROURUS* (LINN. 1758) AT MIZORAM, INDIA¹

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The Asiatic Brushtailed Porcupine *Atherurus macrourus* is known to exist in Assam, India. Ellerman and Morrison-Scott (1951) had recorded its distribution as Assam (India), Tenasserim (Myanmar), China, Indo-China, Thailand and Malaysia.

According to Choudhary (1997) *Atherurus macrourus assamensis*, a subspecies of the Asiatic Brushtailed Porcupine is found in India. This is also endorsed by Molur *et al.* (1998). In the CHECKLIST OF INDIAN MAMMALS, Nameer (2000) has also mentioned Assam as its known distribution limit. Thomas (1921) had described the specimen of Asiatic Brushtailed Porcupine collected from Assam by Wells, during the Mammal Survey of India. In his report, "Scientific results from the Mammal Survey", he had described it as a new species *Atherurus assamensis*. But subsequently, it was given the status of subspecies *assamensis*. Currently, the subspecies *assamensis* is also considered as a synonym of *Atherurus*

macrourus (Wilson and Reeder 1993). Until now, the known distribution of the species was only Assam. Recently, one of us (M. Swamlina) sent a photograph of an animal taken at Hmuifang, Aizawl, Mizoram for identification to the BNHS; where it was identified as *Atherurus macrourus*. The occurrence of *A. macrourus* in the Aizawl district of Mizoram state is a new distribution record for the species which was so far known only from Assam. Interestingly, Mizoram and Myanmar share a common boundary.

The Bombay Natural History Society's collections has a male specimen (Reg. No. 8997) of this species collected at Tenasserim, Myanmar on 20.xii.1913.

According to Blanford (1891), this species was restricted to the east of Bay of Bengal. He further states, "the genus must have existed in the Indian Peninsula, for its teeth have been found in the Pleistocene cave-deposits of Kurnool".

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4. PREDATION ON CHITAL *AXIS AXIS* BY WILD PIG *SUS SCROFA* IN BANDHAVGARH NATIONAL PARK¹

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On April 12, 2006, while we were at Bandhavgarh National Park to estimate Tiger population, we observed a

group of six to seven Chital *Axis axis* grazing near a water hole at around 1700 hrs. A group of 12-13 Wild Pigs



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