

life by wolves in the Hoshangabad and Narsinghpur districts of Madhya Pradesh. Shahi (1982) reported the presence of wolves in six districts of Madhya Pradesh. After 13 years, Bharos (1996) reported their presence in Rewa, while Ranjitsinh (1998) reported the sighting of a female wolf in Raisen and Sidhi districts. In the same year, K. Yoganand of Wildlife Institute of India reported the presence of wolves and sighting of their scats and tracks on the fringes of Panna National Park, Panna district, Madhya Pradesh. This is the first report from Seoni district.

In Pench Tiger Reserve, Wild Dogs or Dholes (*Cuon alpinus*) are observed to occupy the forest, while wolves remain on the fringes, close to human settlements. The Pench Tiger Reserve supports major Carnivora, such as Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Indian Jackal (*Canis aureus*), Wild Dog, Indian Wolf (*Canis lupus*), Indian Fox (*Vulpes bengalensis*) and Striped Hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*).

The Indian Wolf seems to be widely distributed in Madhya Pradesh. The presence of wolves in Pench Tiger Reserve poses an intriguing question as the forest area is occupied by other canids, like the Wild Dog and

Indian Jackal, which are common. Yoganand and Johnsingh (2000) have also reported the co-existence of Dhole and Wolf in Panna, based on temporal and spatial segregation, wherein the Wolf occupies the forest fringes and the Wild Dog the forested area.

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\*G. AREENDRAN

\*\*M.K. PASHA

Wildlife Institute of India,

Dehra Dun 248 001, Uttaranchal, India.

\*Present Address: IGCMC, WWF-India,  
172-B, Lodhi Estate,  
New Delhi 110 003, India.

\*\*Present Address: Wildlife Trust of India,  
C-644, New Friends Colony,  
New Delhi 110 001, India.

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### 3. DEATH OF A BLUE BULL *BOSELAPHUS TRAGOCAMELUS* DUE TO SNAKEBITE

Gura Bishnoi is a protected area covering 422 sq. km of area, c. 15 km southeast of Jodhpur (26° 78' N, 73° 08' E). There are 24 villages in this protected area, of which some are predominantly Bishnoi community areas.

On the morning of September 9, 2001, I visited Khajarli, the place where a legendary group of Bishnois died trying to protect the Khejri (*Prosopis cineraria*). On the way, we stopped at Khajarli pond to observe Chinkara *Gazella bennetti*, Blackbuck *Antelope cervicapra* and a variety of birds. We were standing on the bank of the pond and watching wildlife when we heard an unusual animal sound in the nearby *Prosopis juliflora* plantation. We rushed in the direction of the sound, and saw a 1.5-1.8 m long Indian cobra (*Naja naja*) crossing the path. Further, there was a male Blue

Bull *Boselaphus tragocamelus* on a crippled hind leg, which prevented it from walking or running properly. After 10-12 minutes, the animal began to tremble and fell to the ground. People working in the fields nearby also came to the spot. One of the old Bishnoi farmers looked at the male Blue Bull and said that it was another case of snakebite by the black snake usually seen in the area. The Blue Bull's mouth was foaming with saliva and its left leg was swollen, when it finally died an hour later.

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ANIL KUMAR CHHANGANI

Department of Zoology,  
JNV University, Jodhpur 342 005,  
Rajasthan, India.

Email: chhanganiak@yahoo.com



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