

Reserve Forest was quite unexpected. At our first sighting, we were on the slope of a hill and the langurs were on the slope of the opposite hill, roosting on a tree. We were observing them from a stone hide at a distance of about 15 m. We spotted one new born infant and six adult langurs in that group. After that we made several trips to Kakoijana Reserve Forest covering about 10% area and saw 20 - 25 golden langurs, including some new born infants, in five different groups.

Kakoijana is a deciduous secondary forest 17.2 sq.km in area, on the hilly banks of the River Aie, and is about 12 km from Bongaigaon town. This forest is about 30 km south of Manas, and is isolated from other forests. The golden langur population is therefore an isolated one. Earlier records on the distribution of this highly endangered species are from Manas and Chakrashila.

Scientists of the Indo-U.S. Primate Project (Prof. Irwin S. Bernstein, Dr. Arun Srivastava and Mr. Prabal Sarkar) visited Kakoijana Reserve Forest with us in February, 1996 and confirmed our sighting.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. P.C. Bhattacharjee (Head, Dept. of Zoology, Gauhati University), Dr. Arun Srivastava (Indo-U.S. Primate Project), Mr. G.C. Basumatary (D.F.O. Aie Valley Div. Bongaigaon), Mr. Mahendra Barman and Mr. Paresh Khatuniar for their co-operation.

October 31, 1996

ARNAB BOSE

Nature's Foster,

C/o Mitali Cycle Store,

(Near Prakash Cinema),

P.O. & Dist. Bongaigaon-783380.

4. INDUCED EMESIS BY JUNGLE CAT (*FELIS CHAUS*)

On 13th August, 1995 I was watching some larks near a nullah about 30 km from Udaipur, Rajasthan. The place is called Dholi Ghati and it is about 3 km from a township called Gogunda.

I was sitting behind a bush on the raised bank of a nullah and scanning the barren fields beyond the opposite bank, with field glasses. Both the banks of the nullah were overgrown with dense bushes and beyond that there was scanty vegetation. There was a small trickle of water in the nullah.

I suddenly caught sight of a Jungle Cat about 50 m from me on the opposite bank. It emerged from the dense undergrowth, scanned the surroundings and slowly walked towards the bank where I was sitting. From its appearance it looked quite sick, its limbs were not steady and were trembling. Slowly it crossed the nullah and stopped near a shrub. It sniffed at the shrub, and plucked a leaf and gulped it down. One by one it plucked and gulped five leaves. Then it remained motionless for a minute or so and then ate two more leaves. Then it took three steps away

from the plant, arched its body and vomited. In this fashion thrice it ejected some food and secretion from its stomach. Then it raised its head, took a careful look all around and trotted off into the undergrowth as if it had no ailment and disappeared from my sight.

I took a specimen of the shrub and it was identified as *Eclipta alba* (Family Compositae). The Hindi name of the shrub is Bhingraj. From experts of Ayurved I came to know that the shrub is used in Ayurvedic medicines for liver ailments, to regulate bile secretions, for Jaundice and for improving the digestion.

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April 10, 1996

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