

STATE FAUNA SERIES II

**FAUNA OF BIHAR
(INCLUDING JHARKHAND)
PART-1**

Edited by
The Director
Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata



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Kolkata**

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2004

1-213

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MAMMALS

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INTRODUCTION

Information about mammalian fauna of Bihar is very much scattered except the Order Chiroptera by Sinha (1986). In this paper, altogether records of 95 species and subspecies of mammals of Bihar, belonging to order Scandentia (1 sp. & subsp.), Insectivera (2 sp. & subsp.), Chiroptera (29 sp. & subsp.), Primates (2 sp. & subsp.), Pholidata (1 sp. & subsp.), Carnivora (20 sp. & subsp.), Proboscidea (1 sp. & subsp.), Perissodactyla (1 sp. & subsp.), Artiodactyla (14 sp. & subsp.), Lagomorpha (1 sp. & subsp.) Rodentia (22 sp. & subsp.) and Cetacea (1 sp. & subsp.), have been procured through specimens present in Zoological Survey of India, extant literature and recent observations. These important literature which deals with the mammalian fauna of India, including Bihar are due to Agrawal *et. al* (1992), Andersen (1912), Anderson (1881), Blanford (1888-91), Blyth (1863), Corbet & Hill (1992), Dobson (1876; 1978), Ellerman (1961), Ellerman and Morrison-Scott (1951), Gupta & Sinha (1980), Hill (1963), Inglis (1916), Jones (1982), Khajuria (1953), Khajuria *et. al* (1977), Kumar (1970), Nath (1951), Pocock (1937 *a*; *b*; 1939; 1941), Prasad (1983), Roy Chaudhary (1958 *a*; *b*; 1960 *a*; *b*; 1961; 1962; 1963; 1964 *a*; *b*; 1965; 1966), Sclater (1891), Shahi (1977), Sinha (1981), Tiakder (1983), Venkateshwarlu (1973), Wilson & Reeder (1993) and Wroughton (1915; 1918 *a*; *b*;).

All measurements mentioned in the text are in millimetres and the figures in parentheses indicate arithmetic means (for more than two specimens).

Keys for the identification of family, genera and species of mammals of Bihar have been given under each order. Common name, material examined, diagnosis, distribution and remarks on distribution etc. have been provided for future workers on this group.

The following abbreviations have been used in the text :

<i>ad.</i>	= adult;
<i>apf</i>	= Length of anterior palatal foramina;
<i>b</i>	= length of bulla;
<i>c¹</i> <i>c¹</i>	= distance between outer surfaces of upper canines;
<i>cw</i>	= cranial width;
<i>d</i>	= length of diastema;
<i>E</i>	= length of ear;
<i>Fa</i>	= length of forearm;
<i>F & cl</i>	= length of foot and claw;
<i>H & B</i>	= length of head and body;
<i>G. P. R. S, Pat.</i>	= Gangetic Plains Regional Station, Zoological Survey of India, Patna;
<i>Hf</i>	= length of hindfoot;
<i>iw</i>	= least interorbital width;
<i>l</i>	= greatest length of skull;
<i>m¹</i> <i>m¹</i>	= distance between outer surfaces of first upper molars;
<i>m²</i> <i>m²</i>	= distance between outer surfaces of second upper molars;

Palamu district. In other parts of Bihar it is endangered due to loss of forests.

Order PERISSODACTYLA

It is characterised by the number of toes in each foot, being usually odd, third or middle toes being most prominent.

Family RHINOCEROTIDAE

Three toes on each foot, terminating in a small hoof-like nail.

Genus *Rhinoceros* Linnaeus, 1758

Actually now-a-days it is not found in Bihar but sometimes comes from Nepal in border areas. The species which comes from Nepal is *R. unicornis*.

57. *Rhinoceros unicornis* Linnaeus

1758. *Rhinoceros unicornis* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat. 10th. ed.*, 1 : 56 (Assam, India).

Common name : Great Indian One-horned Rhinoceros (English).

Material examined : By Sclater (1891) : Purnea district : 1♂, stuffed and bones of feet, coll. G. W. Shillingford, 1871.

Measurements : Nil.

Diagnosis : Size large, height at the shoulders 170 cm or more; horn only one on the tip of snout; skull with the post-tympanic and post-glenoid processes of the squamosal bone united for a considerable extent below the meatus auditorius; upper lip rounded.

Distribution : India : Bihar : Purnea district (Sclater 1891 : it was formerly plentiful in the Purnea district, but now it seems to be almost confined to the Doars to the east of the Teesta river; Roy Chaudhury 1963 : Rhino used to be shot in the district half a century before. The biggest one stand stuffed in the Calcutta Museum shot in this district by Shillingford), Saharsa district (Roy Chaudhury 1965 : At one time Rhinoceros used to come from Nepal), West Champaran district (Roy Chaudhury 1960 : makes stray

appearance in the forest of Madanpur, Balgangwa and Hathimalkhanta from Nepal); West Bengal; Assam; Uttar Pradesh (recently introduced).

Elsewhere : Nepal.

Remarks : At present it has not been seen in Bihar. Shahi (1977) mentions that the one horned Rhinoceros once common in the Rajmahal hill of Santhal Parganas and in Purnea district, North Bihar is now extinct.

Even-toed ungulate; axis of the foot passes between third and fourth toes.

Order Artiodactyla is represented by four families in Bihar.

Key to the families of the order ARTIODACTYLA

1. Upper incisors absent. 2
- Upper incisors present. SUIDAE
2. Either horns or antlers present; size large. 3
- Horns or antlers absent, size very small. TRAGULIDAE
3. Horns consists of a hollow outer sheath and an inner bony core, unbranched and permanent. BOVIDAE
- Antlers solid, branched, ornamented with knots or ridges, and periodically shed. CERVIDAE

Family SUIDAE

This family is represented in India by a single genus, *Sus* Linnaeus, 1758 of which one species and subspecies *viz.* *Sus scrofa cristatus* occurs in Bihar.

58. *Sus scrofa cristatus* Wagner

1839. *Sus cristatus* Wagner, *Munch. Gelehrt. Anz.*, 9 : 435 (Probably Malabar coast, India).

Common name : Indian Wild Boar (English).

Material examined by Sclater (1891) : Purnea district : 1♂ (skull) and 1♂ (skeleton), Purnea, J. L. Shillingford, 1881.

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