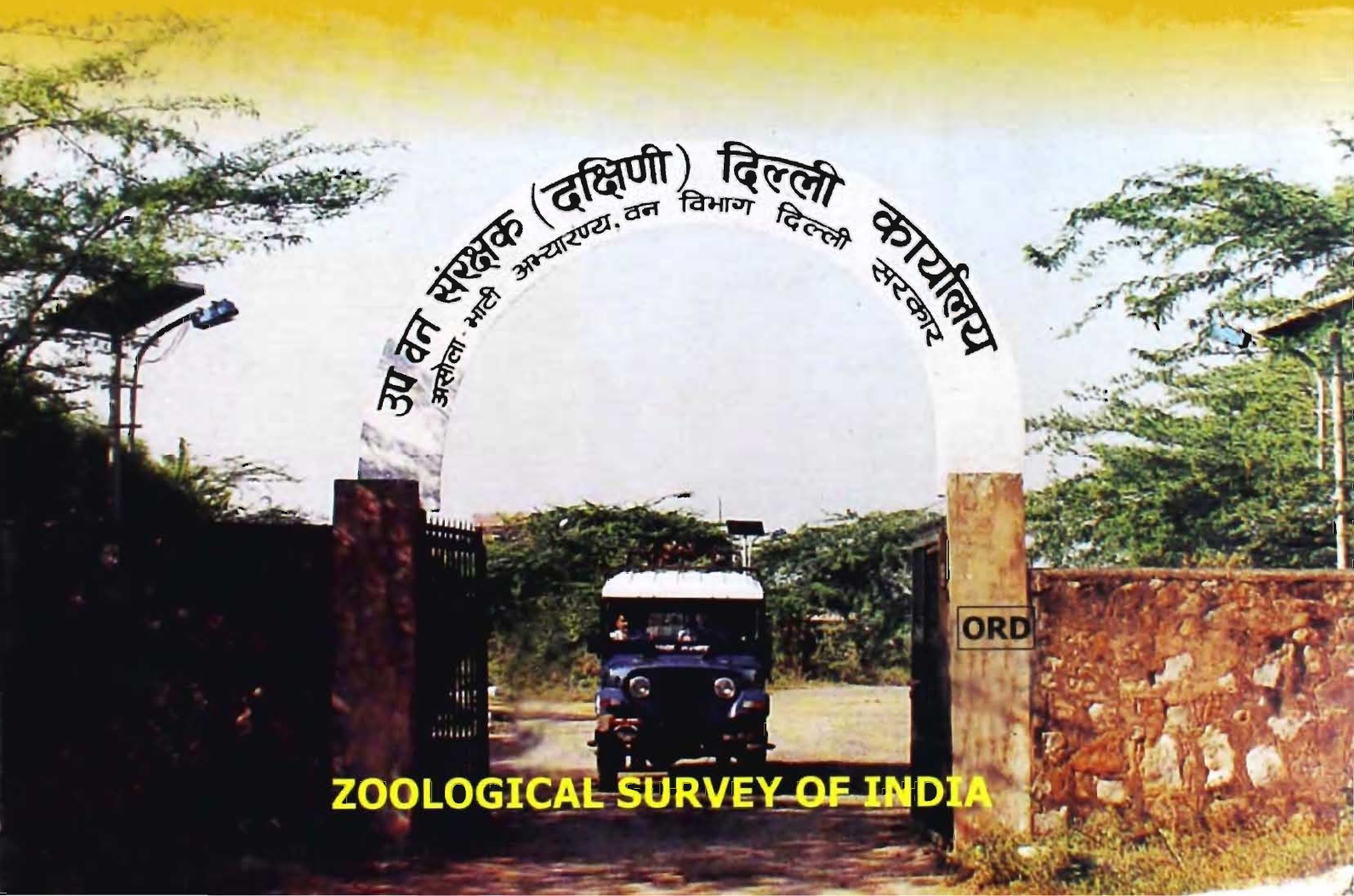
Fauna of Conservation Area No. 16

SOME SELECTED FAUNA Of ASOLA-BHATTI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY (DELHI)



ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

Fauna of Conservation Area No. 16

SOME SELECTED FAUNA
of
ASOLA-BHATTI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Edited by the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.



Zoological Survey of India
Kolkata

Fauna of Conservation Area No. **16**, *Some Selected Fauna of Asola-Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary* : 47-50, 2003

REPTILIA

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INTRODUCTION

The reptilian fauna of Delhi has not been throughly worked out during the past except for the basic work of Smith (1943) and some general references like in, Gazetteers of Delhi (Anonymous 1888; 1913; Raza *et. al.*, 1976), Census reports (Raj & Sehgal, 1964); Delhi Ridge Forest. (Kalpavriksh, 1991), Srishti Reports (Malik *et. al.*, 1996, Gaur, 1995), Newsl. IZDA/CZA Report (Anonymous, 1996). Recently Husain (1997) listed 25 species of reptiles belonging to orders Crocodyilia, Testudins, Sauria and Serpentes, adding three species, all belonging to Saurian, to the known reptilian fauna of Delhi and Gill (1997) described a new gekkonid, Cyrtodactylus aravallensis from the Delhi Ridge area.

During the present study four species of lizards and one snake could be recorded from the sanctuary area of which two are a new find for Delhi and four the first records for the sanctuary itself.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

I. Family AGAMIDAE

1. *Calotes versicolar* Daudin
Garden Lizard

Material Examined : Asola-Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, Sahurpur, 1 ex. (63+160 mm), 5.iii.1998, *Coll. S. K. Gupta*; Bhatti Mines, Pit No. 10/11, 1 ex. (75+238 mm), 26.x.1998, *Coll. Vinod Khanna*; Pipalwala; 1 ex. (66+130 mm), 18.xii.1999; Pit No. 9, 2 exs. (44+120, 51+135 mm), 19.xii.1999, *Coll. J. P. Sati & party.*

Distribution : India : Delhi and generally throughout. *Elsewhere* : Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Hong King, Indonesia and China. First record from the Sanctuary.

Remarks : Arboreal, occurring in gardens, bushy and shrubby areas. Basically insectivore

also feeds on small birds, nesting, frogs, rodents, vegetative matter like leaves, seeds, flowers, etc. Breeds during summer and rainy season laying upto 25 eggs in different sized clutches in a hole dug by females in soft lower bed.

II. Family GEKKONIDAE

2. ***Hemidactylus brooki*** (Gray)
Spotted Brook's Gecko

Material Examined : Asola-Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, 1 ex., 12.ii.1995; *Coll. J. P. Sati & party*; Southern part, 1 ex. (30, tail broken); 5.viii.1997, *Coll. N. K. Sinha & party*; Pipalwala, ca 2 km from Asola FRH, 2 exs. (31+43, 36+46 mm), 28.ii.1998; Deoli area, 1 ex. (33+38 mm), 3.iii.1998; Dudhawali Khan in Bhatti Mines, 1 ex. (34+36 mm), 6.iii.1998, *Coll. S. K. Gupta & party*; Deoli, 1 ex. (42+52 mm), 28.x.1998; Imliwala, 1 ex. (37+44), 30.x.1998, *Coll. Vinod Khanna & party*; Pipalwala, 2 exs. (37+37, 47+55 mm), 18.xii.1999; Pit No. 9; 2 exs. (29+35, 47+48 mm), 19.xii.1999; Tughlakabad, towards Shooting range; 1 ex. (42+55 mm), *Coll. J. P. Sati & party.*

Distribution : India : Delhi and generally throughout. *Elsewhere* : Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Singapore, Africa (northern half) and West Indies. Earlier recorded both from the sanctuary and Delhi (Husain, 1997).

Remarks : Generally seen around pile of stones, bark of dead tree trunks, in crevices, old deserted buildings etc. Basically insectivorous, also feeds on small land molluscs, seeds of wild bushes etc. Breeds during summer period, female lays two small eggs in clutch, which hatch out in about 40 days time.

III. Family LACERTIDAE

3. ***Ophisops feidoni*** (Blyth)
Snake-Eyed Lacerta

Material Examined : Asola-Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, Dudhawali Khan in Bhatti Mines, 1 ex. (20+24 mm), 6.iii.1998, *Coll. S. K. Gupta & party*; Tughlakabad, towards Shooting range; 1 ex. (21+48 mm), 24.xii.1999, *Coll. J. P. Sati & party.*

Distribution : India : Generally throughout. *Elsewhere* : Pakistan. First record from the sanctuary and also Delhi State.

Remarks : Burrowing. Diurnal. Insectivorous.

IV. Family SCINCIDAE

5. ***Riopa punctata*** Gray
Striped Kink

Material Examined : Asola-Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, ca 3 km south of Asola Administrative Block; 2 exs. (20, 42 mm + tail broken/regenerated), 2.iii.1998; Deoli area, 1 ex. (38-43 mm + tail), 3.iii.1998; Sahurpur, Asola, 2 exs. (45+58, 50+69 mm), 5.iii.1998, Dudhawali Khan in Bhatti Mines, 1 ex. (44 mm + tail), *Coll. S. K. Gupta & party*; Imliwala, 1 ex. (47 + tail), 30.x.1998, Coll. Dudhawali Khan in Bhatti Mines, 1 ex. (20 + 24 mm), 6.iii.1998, *Coll. S. K. Gupta & party.*

Distribution : India : Delhi and widely distributed both in plains and hilly terrain. *Elsewhere* : Sri Lanka, Vietnam. First record from the sanctuary area.

Remarks : Prefers moist soil, underneath stones, old bricks or old logs. Insectivorous. Female covers the eggs by soil after laying.

Order SERPENTES

V. Family TYPHLOPIDAE

6. ***Typhlops porrectus*** Stoliczka
Slender Work Snake

Material Examined : Asola-Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, Sahurpur 1 ex. (80 mm), 22.xii.1999, *Coll. J. P. Sati & party.*

Distribution : India : Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala. Elsewhere : Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Myanmar. First record from the Sanctuary and also Delhi.

Remarks : Inhabits burrowing in upper lose soil, around roots of bushes and decayed wooden logs. Nocturnal. Insectivorous. Female lays tiny, elongated, white eggs during summer and rainy seasons. Non-venomous.

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