NOTE

THE HIMALAYAN CRESTLESS PORCUPINE Hystrix brachyura
Linnaeus, 1758 (Mammalia: Rodentia: Hystricidae):
FIRST AUTHENTIC RECORD FROM BANGLADESH

Mohammad Ashraf Ul Hasan & Sufia Akter Neha

26 September 2019 | Vol. 11 | No. 12 | Pages: 14624–14626
DOI: 10.11609/jott.4861.11.12.14624-14626
Hystrix is a genus of porcupines under the family Hystricidae, constituted by eight species: Thick-spined Porcupine *H. crassispinis*, Philippine Porcupine *H. pumila*, Sumatran Porcupine *H. sumatranus*, Himalayan Crestless Porcupine *H. brachyura*, Sunda Porcupine *H. javanica*, Cape Porcupine *H. africaeaustralis*, Crested Porcupine *H. cristata*, Indian Porcupine *H. indica* (Myers et al. 2019). The individuals of this genus are characterized by their coat of sharp quills, strictly nocturnal, primarily terrestrial, and herbivorous in nature. This fossorial rodent lives in family units and feeds on fruits, roots, tubers, barks and carcasses (Jnawali et al. 2011; Mallick 2012). They are widely distributed in Africa and southwestern, southern & southeastern Asia (McKenna & Bell 1997). *Hystrix brachyura* is found in India, Nepal, Bhutan, Indochina to the Malay Peninsula and China, as well as Hainan, Sumatra and Borneo Islands (Lekagul & McNeely 1988; Lunde et al. 2008; Mallick 2012). In the literature (Corbet & Hill 1992; Agrawal 2000; Wilson et al. 2016), this species already reported from Bangladesh; however, not found any authentic record. *Hystrix brachyura* is categorized as Least Concern globally (Lunde et al. 2016). The species is reported to be encountered in a wide variety of habitats such as temperate forests, tropical and subtropical montane forests to open areas, rocky mountains, riverine and ravines (Chung et al. 2016; Lunde et al. 2016). No records, however, have been confirmed this species from mangrove forest. Hence, the present study elucidates the first confirmation record of *Hystrix brachyura* from the Sundarbans Mangrove Forest, Bangladesh.

**The Himalayan Crestless Porcupine**

*Hystrix brachyura* Linnaeus, 1758 (Mammalia: Rodentia: Hystricidae): first authentic record from Bangladesh

Mohammad Ashraf Ul Hasan1 & Sufia Akter Neha2

1 B-8/C-5, Bandhan Complex, Agargaon Taltola Government Staff Quarter, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka 1207, Bangladesh.  
2 39/1A, Road 10, Middle Badda, Gulshan, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh.  
1 ashrafulhasan.jnu403@gmail.com (corresponding author),  
2 neha.jnu463@gmail.com

During our social survey in Sundarbans mangrove forest, Bangladesh, the *Hystrix brachyura* was sighted in the Supoti Forest Camp (22.047°N & 89.827°E), Sundarbans East Zone, Bangladesh (Figure 1). On 22 May 2018, opportunistically an individual of porcupine was directly spotted but it was soon fled away into the shrubs and unidentified at that moment. The observation area was dominated by *Acanthus ilicifolius* and *Phragmites karka*. To substantiate the confirmation, a subsequent attempt was taken on 24 May 2018. Though several studies have revealed that various kinds of bait lured to particular species in general, or attract more of a prescribed species has been of specific focus (Oswald & Flake 1994); considering the facts, pieces of apples and potatoes were used to attract porcupine in a suitable place where a clear observation could be made. One more time, an individual attracted to bait was seen under the shrub of *Phragmites karka* at 19.35h. Finally, a clear visual observation as well as several photographs were taken. We recorded the geographic coordination using Garmin GPSMAP 64S.
First authentic record of Himalayan Crestless Porcupine in Bangladesh

Hasan & Neha


Figure 1. Location of the *Hystrix brachyura* recorded from Sundarbans, Bangladesh.

The head-body length of *Hystrix brachyura* is 59–72 cm and the tail 6–11 cm long (Francis 2008). The weight is 8 kg while short and sturdy limbs are covered with brown hairs which possess four claws on the forelimb and five on the hind limb (Menon 2014; Parr 2003; Jnawali et al. 2011; Lunde et al. 2016). Compared to *Hystrix indica*, it has relatively shorter dorsal crest; smaller tail instead of a visible tail (Menon 2014). Unlike *Hystrix indica* that has more than two dark bands on long dorsal quills, *Hystrix brachyura* has only one (Image 1). Another significant characteristic that can be distinguished from the *Hystrix indica* is its blunt muzzle (Image 2).

*Hystrix brachyura* is one of the three species found in southeastern Asia (Francis 2008; Chung et al. 2016). A total of 127 mammalian species including two species of Hystriidae family has been recorded so far by IUCN Bangladesh (2015), namely, *Atherurus macrourus* and *Hystrix indica*; therefore, *Hystrix brachyura* is new addition to the mammalian fauna of the country. Moreover, 42 species of mammals are found in Sundarbans, Bangladesh (IRMP 2010) and 49 mammalian species are recorded at Sundarban Tiger Reserve in India (Mallick 2011). Both sites of the Sundarbans mangrove region have not reported *Hystrix brachyura*, thus, this detection supports that the mangrove forest is another potential habitat.

*Hystrix brachyura* is a poorly studied rodent and therefore, little information available on its ecology across the southeastern Asian region. The species is threatened in its habitat due to habitat destruction and hunting for food and therapeutic purposes (Molur et al. 2005; Borschberg 2006). Consequently, rapid climate change and anthropogenic pressures affect the mangrove ecosystem which could eventually make the species vulnerable. An empirical study on this elusive species is needed which will fill the gap in porcupine studies and help in the promotion of conservation strategies.

**References**


The Journal of Threatened Taxa (JoTT) is dedicated to building evidence for conservation globally by publishing peer-reviewed articles online every month at a reasonably rapid rate at www.threatenedtaxa.org. All articles published in JoTT are registered under Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License unless otherwise mentioned. JoTT allows unrestricted use, reproduction, and distribution of articles in any medium by providing adequate credit to the author(s) and the source of publication.

ISSN 0974-7907 (Online) | ISSN 0974-7893 (Print)

September 2019 | Vol. 11 | No. 12 | Pages: 14471–14630
Date of Publication: 26 September 2019 (Online & Print)
DOI: 10.11609/jott.2019.11.12.14471-14630

**Article**

Ornithophony in the soundscape of Analkatty Hills, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India
– Chandrasekaran Divyapriya & Padmanabhan Pramod, Pp. 14471–14483

**Communications**

A case study on the public knowledge and awareness of the Philippine Pangolin *Manis culionensis* (Mammalia: Pholidota: Manidae)
– Frances Mae Tenorio & Joselito Baril, Pp. 14484–14489

Winter food habits of the Common Palm Civet *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus* (Mammalia: Carnivora: Viverridae) in Patna Bird Sanctuary, India
– Khursid Alam Khan, Jamal Ahmad Khan, Khursheed Ahmad & Narendra Mohan, Pp. 14490–14495

Report of five interesting avian species from Durgapur ecoregion, West Bengal, India by citizen science effort
– Sagar Adhurya & Shantanu Bhandary, Pp. 14496–14502

Brief insight into the behavior, activity, and interspecific interactions of urban *Trimeresurus* (*Cryptelytrops*) *albolabris* (*Reptilia: Squamata: Viperidae*) vipers in Bangkok, Thailand
– Curt Hrad Barnes & Tyler Keith Knierim, Pp. 14503–14510

The distributional pattern of benthic macroinvertebrates in a spring-fed foothill tributary of the Ganga River, western Himalaya, India
– Vijay Prakash Semwal & Asheesh Shivam Mishra, Pp. 14511–14517

Seasonal vegetation shift and wetland dynamics in vulnerable granitic rocky outcrops of Palghat Gap of southern Western Ghats, Kerala, India
– Pathiyil Arabhi & Maya Chandrasekharan Nair, Pp. 14518–14526

A comprehensive checklist of endemic flora of Meghalaya, India
– Mohammad Ashraf Ul Hasan & Sufia Akter Neha, Pp. 14524–14526

The Himalayan Crestless Porcupine *Hystrix brachyura* (Mammalia: Carnivora: Hystricidae): first authentic record from Bangladesh
– Amritpal Singh Kaleka, Devinder Singh & Sujata Saini, Pp. 14537–14545

Further studies on two species of the moth genus *Paralebeda* (*Lepidoptera: Bombycoidea: Lasiocampidae*) from northwestern India
– Vignesh Kamath & Kadaba Shamanna Seshadri, Pp. 14547–14552

The genus *Grewia* (*Malvaceae: Grewioideae*) in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, India with a conservation note on the endemic *G. indandamanica*

Three grasses (*Poaceae*), additions to the flora of Andhra Pradesh, India
– Anil Kumar Midigesi & Boyina Ravi Prasad Rao, Pp. 14566–14571

Ethnobotanical survey of indigenous leafy vegetables consumed in rural areas of Terai-Dooars region of West Bengal, India
– Mallika Mazumder & Anup Kumar Sarkar, Pp. 14572–14578

Australasian sequestrate Fungi 20: *Russula scarlatina* (*Agaricomycetes: Russulales: Russulaceae*), a new species from dry grassy woodlands of southeastern Australia
– Todd F. Elliott & James M. Trappe, Pp. 14579–14603

**Notes**

The Himalayan Crestless Porcupine *Hystrix brachyura* Linnaeus, 1758 (Mammalia: Rodentia: Hystricidae): first authentic record from Bangladesh
– Mohammad Ashraf Ul Hasan & Sufia Akter Neha, Pp. 14624–14626

A new distribution record of *Asplenium scalare* Rosenst. (*Aspleniaceae*) in India

**Response & Reply**

Response to spiders of Odisha: a preliminary checklist additions to the spider checklist of Odisha

Reply to response: spiders of Odisha
– Sudhir Ranjan Choudhury, Manju Siliwal & Sanjay Keshari Das, P. 14630

**Publisher & Host**

WILD
Threatened Taxa

www.threatenedtaxa.org