Record of *Tetracerus quadricornis* (de Blainville, 1816) in Pilibhit Forest division of Terai Arc Landscape, Uttar Pradesh, India

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The occurrence of Four-horned Antelope *Tetracerus quadricornis* from Terai Arc Landscape of India was dubious in the recent past (Krishna et al. 2009), and was considered locally extirpated from the north of the Gangetic plains (Sharma 2006). The only sighting of a Four-horned Antelope, also called Chausingha, with a fawn was reported from Kaladhungi area of Uttarakhand by Corbett (1953).

In the Pilibhit Forest Division of Uttar Pradesh the photograph of a *T. quadricornis* (Image 1) was captured by camera trap during the exercises carried out for population estimation of the Tiger *Panthera tigris* between 22 May and 30 June 2010. The location where the photo-capture of *T. quadricornis* was possible is at the coordinates 28°39’00.5”N & 79°56’17.0”E. It is in the Marwari Beat of the Mala Forest Range (Fig. 1). Camera trapping was carried out in an area of 150km² over 30 trap stations on 40 occasions (Anwar et al. 2010).

This is the first photographic record of *T. quadricornis* from the Pilibhit District of Uttar Pradesh State. It is believed that *T. quadricornis* has traditionally occurred in Pilibhit Forest Division but sightings have escaped proper identification. From a distance clear identification of Chausingha from Muntjac *Muntiacus muntjak* and Hog Deer *Axis porcinus* may be confusing (Nowak 1991). In the Pilibhit Forest Division, the ecological associates of *T. quadricornis* include the Nilgai *Boselaphus tragocamelus*, Hog Deer and Muntjac, among other cervids.

*T. quadricornis* is differentiated from Nilgai on the basis of its smaller size and height (1:9 and 1:2, respectively) and the presence of four horns (Leslie & Sharma 2009). It differs in its body posture from Muntjac and Hog Deer (Meraj Anwar pers. obs.). Chousingha has a delicate-build, thin short yellow-creamy fawn pelage, whitish ventral and inner leg markings without clear demarcation, and has a most conspicuous elongated and well developed preorbital...
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The species is considered to be abundant in central India and a small population from the forests of Kheri District in Uttar Pradesh State of India. Inference regarding the presence of *T. quadricornis* in Kheri District (Fig. 2) was based on a questionnaire survey but the status was unknown, and therefore, further confirmation was recommended by Sharma (2006).

The inclusion of Pilibhit Forest Division in the distribution range of Chousingha is a record. The terrain of Pilibhit FD is characterized by very gentle slopes with a mosaic of grasslands, moist deciduous and dry deciduous forests. The present photographic record of *T. quadricornis* is from a forest dominated with Sal *Shorea robusta* trees.

**REFERENCES**

Figure 2. Records of Four-horned Antelope in Terai Arc Landscape of Uttar Pradesh: present record (green dot) in Pilibhit District, and suspected record in Kheri District (orange dot). Earlier record near Kaladhungi in Uttarakhand is shown as a grey dot. The record from Pilibhit makes the range of distribution continuous from Kheri to Kaladhungi.


