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NOTE

FIRST CAMERA TRAP PHOTOGRAPHS OF INDIAN PANGOLIN *MANIS CRASSICAUDA* (MAMMALIA: PHOLIDOTA: MANIDAE) FROM PAKISTAN

Misbah Bint Riaz, Faraz Akrim, Siddiqua Qasim, Syed Afaq Bukhari, Asad Aslam, Muhammad Waseem, Rizwana Imtiaz & Tariq Mahmood

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First camera trap photographs of Indian Pangolin *Manis crassicaudata* (Mammalia: Pholidota: Manidae) from Pakistan

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The Indian Pangolin *Manis crassicaudata* is categorized as 'Endangered' by IUCN and also listed in the Appendix-I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and Flora (CITES) (Mahmood et al. 2019). The species is distributed across five range countries including Pakistan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh (although its occurrence in Bangladesh is not confirmed by field evidence). The species population is declining across its range due to poaching and illegal killing for its scales which are traded in the international markets for making traditional medicines.

In Pakistan, the Indian Pangolin has been focused for ecological studies like its distribution, habitat, population density, and food habits (Akrim et al. 2017; Irshad et al. 2015; Mahmood et al. 2012, 2014, 2016, 2019; Waseem et al. 2020a,b) for last one decade, but no previous records exist for camera trapping of the species.

In the current study, we have camera trapped Indian Pangolin in the country providing very first camera

trap photographs of the species from Pakistan. The species has been camera trapped from two sampling sites; one from Pothwar Plateau (Kallar Syedan site 33.465N & 73.409E, Rawalpindi District) and the other from Rolli Hills (33.486N & 73.902E), surrounding the University of Kotli (Image 1), Azad Jammu & Kashmir. For this purpose, we installed eight camera trap stations from January 2021 till June 2021. We collected a total of 131 pictures of Indian Pangolin from Kallar Syedan site and 25 pictures of the species from Rolli Hills site surrounding University of Kotli AJ&K (Image 2). At Kallar Syedan site we confirmed two pangolins (Image 3) (one male and one female) while the female being pregnant and gave birth (direct field observation) to a baby in the month of April.

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Image 1. A—Google earth map of the two sampling sites | B—Kallar Syedan site, Rawalpindi District | C—Rolli Hills University of Kotli AJ&K site.

Image 2. Camera trap photographs of the Indian Pangolin *Manis crassicaudata*. A&B—from Rolli Hills site, near University of Kotli | C&D—Kallar Syedan site Rawalpindi District.

Image 3. A—camera trapped photograph of a male Indian Pangolin from Kallar Syedan site | B—a female Indian Pangolin.

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