

**Status of the critically endangered species,
Malabar civet *Viverra megaspila civettina* Blyth,
1862 in the southern Western Ghats**



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KERALA FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Peechi- 680 653, Kerala, India

KFRI Research Report No. 305

**Status of the critically endangered species, Malabar civet *Viverra
megaspila civettina* Blyth, 1862 in the southern Western Ghats**

(Final Report of the Research project KFRI/481/2005)

Dr. E. A. Jayson

Division of Forest Ecology and Biodiversity Conservation

**KERALA FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE
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ABSTRACT OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL

1. Project No. : KFRI/481/05
2. Title of Project : **Status of the critically endangered species,
Malabar civet *Viverra megaspila civettina*
Blyth, 1862 in the southern Western Ghats**
3. Objectives:
- a) Identify and locate the Malabar civet in the potential natural habitats.
 - b) To survey the captive civet populations in Kerala for identifying the Malabar civet.
4. Date of commencement : April 2005
5. Scheduled date of completion : September 2007
6. Funding agency : Kerala Forest Research Institute
Peechi- 680 653, Kerala
7. Project Team
- Principal Investigator : Dr. E. A. Jayson
 - Research Fellow : V.M. Sulfikar Ali
8. Study area : Kerala
9. Duration of study : 2 Years
10. Project budget : Rs.2.29 Lakhs

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Abstract

A study was carried out to locate the critically endangered Malabar civet *Viverra megaspila civettina* in Kerala, starting from April 2005 to September 2007. Field surveys, questionnaire survey, distribution of brochures and live trapping were adopted. In addition to these, known captive breeding centers of Small Indian civet were visited to locate the species. Sixty nine potential respondents were interviewed for the questionnaire survey. Thousand copies of specially designed brochures were distributed to the interested people at Nilambur area where the Malabar civet was last spotted. Apart from these the brochures were distributed to the potential informers also. As official permission was not obtained, live trapping was not attempted extensively as planned.

Even though, many responses were obtained from the enthusiastic public after publishing the details of the Malabar civet (from the Brochure) in the newspapers, detailed studies indicated that all the respondents were referring either to the Common palm civet (Toddy cat) or Small Indian civet. A live trap was specially designed for trapping, with many peculiarities and it was proved to be very effective. Live trapping helped in catching only the Common palm civet.

Respondents from Elayur, Nilambur were only aware of the Malabar civet and others were not aware of the species. The habitat of the Malabar civet at Elayur is being lost at a fast pace. Cashew plantations are giving way to rubber plantations and the field surveys revealed that the Malabar civet was not sighted recently. The study could not locate any Malabar civet in captivity also, among the captive Small Indian civets. As the captive breeding of the Small Indian civet is done with great secrecy, the information on captive Small Indian civets is scarce. As the animal is nocturnal in habit, there is still hope of few surviving individuals in some isolated patches at certain remote corners. As most of the potential habitats are with private individuals, there is tremendous pressure to change the land use pattern, which may adversely affect the survival of the species. Spreading information on the rarity of the species may help in the conservation of the species in future.

1. Introduction

The Malabar civet *Viverra megaspila civettina* Blyth, 1862 is endemic to the Western Ghats. It is mostly recorded from the coastal Districts of Western Ghats in southern India from Kanyakumari in the extreme south to Honnavar in Karnataka and in the North as far as Wayanad and Coorg (Corbet and Hill, 1992). There are only two reports of its occurrence in the higher elevation of the Western Ghats, in the High Wavy Mountains and Kudremukh (Karanth, 1986). The Malabar civet was considered "possibly extinct" by IUCN in 1978 until two dead specimens were recovered from Elayur, Nilambur in North Kerala (Kurup, 1989). No confirmed reports on the sighting of the species were available since 1950. It was considered as one of the highest priority species for conservation action by IUCN (Schreiber *et al.* 1989).

The family of Viverridae contains about 75 species of civet, genets, mongooses and their allies, apportioned among 36 genera; that it is convenient to consider them under the headings of the 6-sub families into which it is divided. Viverrids are small to medium sized animals, generally with long tails and often with rather short legs and many of them are marked with conspicuous spots and strips. They are semi plantigrade or digitigrades and the claws are partly retractile in the digitigrades species. Many of the Viverrids have well developed scent glands and some of which produce secretions of attractive odor much valued by man. The family is confined to the old world where it is widely distributed and forms the counter part to the procyonids of the new. The sub-family Viverridae contains the genets, linsangs and civets. All except one species are spotted or blotched and have ringed tails. They are omnivores and although terrestrial, most of them are agile climbers of the trees. About 5-6 species of genet, inhabit Africa and one of them extends into Southern Europe. They are long bodied slim animals with short legs, long tails and soft fur beautifully marked with rows of dark blotches.

The Malabar civet is a mostly nocturnal animal from the Viverridae family, although the Viverridae is distantly related to the felidae family of which the common domestic cat is a member. Although most civet resembles spotted, long-nosed cats, civets of the genus *Viverra* are the most dog-like in appearance, with long legs and rather canine heads and muzzles. It can be told apart from the Small Indian civet easily

by its large size and the dark erectile crest of hair that runs down its spine much like that of the Large Indian civet. Unlike the Large Indian civet, the dark bands run through to the tip of the tail. The under side of the tail has five black and white bands and the black spots on the grey coat do not form lines or patterns but are splotched randomly.

The original habitat of Malabar civet was in the evergreen rain forest belt in the Western Ghats of southwest India, where it lived in wooded plains and adjoining hill slopes. Most capture of this species in the last 30 years has been in valleys, around riparian areas. This suggests possible dependence on shallow waterways where the civet forages at night (Ashraf *et al.*, 1993). Thickets in cashew plantations may also provide important cover. The diet of the related large spotted civet, *Viverra megaspila*, includes small animals, eggs and vegetable matter. To secure their food, civets hunt in the manner of cats, taking prey by surprise, stalking it stealthily or pouncing on it from hiding.

The Malabar civet has never been observed in trees and possibly forages almost entirely on the ground. Species of the genus *Viverra* stay in dense cover by day and come out into the open at night. Malabar civets are aggressive towards members of their own species and have usually been observed alone. It is a large civet, almost similar in size to the Large Indian civet *Viverra zibetha* and its exact measurement is not available. However, it is believed that an adult is around 1090 to 1250 mm long including tail, which is around 330 to 400 mm and weighing up to 6.45 to 8 kg. The coat is long and full grey in colour. The body pattern is blackish and larger as compared to the Small Indian civet. The dorsal crest is black and prominent extending from neck up to the tip of the tail. The tail has five white rings, the last one being only about 25 mm from the tip.

The Malabar civet once inhabited the lowland forests in its range. In northern Kerala, it appears to be confined to thickets in cashew plantations and to highly degraded lowland forests (Ashraf, 1990). It is reported to be nocturnal and retreats to the scrub forests and cashew plantations during the day for shelter. Recent surveys concluded that the typical habitat of Malabar civet is lowland swamp and riparian forests in the coastal plain Districts of Western Ghats. Little is known about its ecology and biology.

About 20 to 25 years ago, this species was apparently widely used to collect civet oil. It was killed for raiding poultry and is declining due to habitat loss. The Malabar civet was once very common in the Districts of North and South in southwest India, but by the late 1960's it was thought to be near extinct and the animal was not sighted again until 1987. This species of civet is one of the world's rare mammals, with no knowledge about the existing population.

Kingdom: *Animalia*

Phylum: *Chordata*

Class: *Mammalia*

Order: *Carnivora*

Family: *Viverridae*

Subfamily: *Viverrinae*

Genus: *Viverra*

Species: *megaspila civettina*

Extensive deforestation has reduced the forests in the Malabar civet's original range to a series of isolated patches and the habitat loss is continuing. Cashew plantations, which probably hold most of the surviving populations of Malabar civet, are now threatened by large-scale clearance for planting rubber. It is not selectively hunted but is captured and killed when encountered. About 90% of the people interviewed in a 1990 survey in the area where the Malabar civet was found were not even aware of its existence. Those who were aware of it were mainly hunters, trappers and civet rearers. Scarcely anyone recognized it as a critically endangered species (Ashraf *et al.*, 1993). Species of the genus *Viverra* are sources of "civet" (or "civet-musk"), an ingredient which is used in the production of perfume.

1.1. Identification

The coat is long and full grey in colour. The body pattern is blackish and larger in size as compared to the Small Indian civet. The dorsal crest is black and prominent extending from neck up to the tip of the tail. The tail has five white rings the last one being only about two inches from the tip.

Key of the Indian species (Anderson J. and Sclater, 1981).

- a. Tail with complete light and dark rings, body markings indistinct and cloudy, not spotty, size large, anterior upper molars distinctly triangular

Viverra zibetha

(Large Indian civet)

- a² Tail with light and dark rings incomplete

- b. Large size, black rings all complete, light rings just broken by the dorsal black bands of the tail, flanks distinctly spotted with large spots.
- c. Mane commencing between ears, skull with anterior upper molars quadrangular as compared with *V. zibetha*

V. civettina

(Malabar civet)

- c² Mane commencing between the shoulders

V. megaspila

1.2. Difference between Small Indian civet and Malabar civet

<i>Small Indian civet</i>	<i>Malabar civet</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small Indian civet is buff colour with spotting all over its body.• Black and white ringed tail has 8-10 dark bands.• Lacks a spinal crest	<p>Black spots on the grey coat do not form lines or patterns splotted randomly.</p> <p>Underside of the tail have 5 black and white bands.</p> <p>Dark erectile crest of hair that run down its spine</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Body length 45-60 cm• Weight 2.5-3.5 kg• All habitats except deserts and also mountains.	<p>Body length 125 cm</p> <p>Weight approximately 8 kg</p> <p>Highly degraded low land forest and cashew plantation.</p>

1.3. Conservation status

It is listed in Schedule I part I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Appendix I of CITES, CR C2a in IUCN Red List and CR A1bc during the CAMP Workshop. The Malabar civet is critically endangered.

IUCN Categories:

- 1960'S-1994: Endangered
- 1996-2004: Critically Endangered (Criteria: C2a)(IUCN2004)

Civets and Palm civets, a diverse assemblage of animals are grouped in a single family, the *Viverridae*. A civet has long body and short limb and it has an elongated head and pointed muzzle. To obtain their food civets have keen eyes, a sharp sense of smell and acute hearing. The facial vibrissae or the whiskers are prominent in these animals and are very mobile and can be directed backwards and forwards. Civets are found all over the Oriental region and in Africa but they mainly occur in India and the Malay countries, where largest number of species live. The species was once very common in the coastal Districts of Malabar and Travancore (Prater, 1980).

The objective of this study was to locate and assess the critically endangered Malabar civet in its habitat and to suggest measures to conserve the species which is one of the rarest mammals on the earth.

1. To locate the critically endangered Malabar civet in its habitat.
2. To survey the captive civet populations in Kerala for the identification of Malabar civet.

1.4. Literature survey

Since the species is thought to be extinct in the sixties, no information was available on the species. Then in eighties, the species has been located at Elayur in the North Kerala. The species has been reported from Karnataka by Karanth (1986). However, no detailed studies on the ecology and behavior of the animal have been carried out. Nevertheless, many studies have been reported on the similar species of civets from different parts of the country (Ayadurai *et al.*, 1987; Acharjyo and Patnaik,

1987). As the species is endemic to the Western Ghats no information on the species has been reported from the other countries. Related civets were subject of studies in India (Xavier, 1993; Xavier and Balakrishnan, 1993; Xavier and Balakrishnan, 1999) and other countries (Joshi *et al.* 1995; Pendje, 1994).

Information on the biological aspects like the gestation period, litter size, age at sexual maturity of male and female and the life span is also not available. Ashraf *et al.* (1993) concluded that the typical habitat of the Malabar civet is lowland swamp and riparian forests in the coastal plain Districts of Western Ghats and isolated population still survive but most probably only in the heavily populated areas in the south Malabar from where forest cover has disappeared almost entirely. As no detailed studies are available on the species and considering the above facts this survey was initiated.

2. Study area and Methods

The study was carried out in the Kerala State and the field surveys were carried out in the northern Districts of the State. This area was selected, as the Malabar civet was last reported from this part of Kerala. Elayur an area near Manjeri, Malappuram District in the northern Kerala was selected as the intensive study area, as the last report of the species was from this site (Fig. 1). The study was mainly based on the methods like live trapping, questionnaire survey, gathering information through leaflet, newspaper reports and night search was also carried out to locate the species. Trapping of the species was carried out in the potential habitats identified, using the questionnaire survey method at Elayur. Limited trapping was carried out using the specially designed traps and extensive live trapping could not be taken for want of official permission.

2.1. Live trapping

Description of the trap: A live trap was specially designed for the study by Mr. Sreevalsan DFO, Kerala Forest Department with many facilities. First concern when designing the trap was about carrying the trap in the field without difficulty. For this purpose, the trap was made of light steel and can be carried by four people easily in the field and it was weighing only 75 kg. For holding the trap, four rings were provided. Another concern was to keep away, the unwanted small animals which may get trapped. To solve this problem, a special spring mechanism was developed, which will activate the trigger of the trap only when the animal of desired weight will step into the trap and the lowest weight was set as 2 kg. If animals less than 2 kg entered the trap, the trigger will not function. A lever prevented the opening of the trap door from inside the cage, when the animal was trapped. Apart from these, the trap had a facility to keep the live prey safely in a box and another facility was to take the captured animal with out opening the main door. The trigger mechanism was well protected using a cover and other feature was to avoid injury to the animal's tail, even if it remains outside the cage when the door is closed. The basal platform was made of wood to prevent the danger of the trapped animal losing body heat over the night, if metal sheets are used for lining the base (Fig.2). The trap can be easily transported in a jeep and a small door was also provided to supply

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Fig. 1 South India showing the study location Elayur, Nilambur and Kerala State



Fig. 2 The specially designed live trap set for catching Civets

As part of the closing function, there There were a total of 237 pro...

Research institute in search of 'veruku'

By RAJESH RAVI

Thrissur, Sept 29: KFRl is in search for *Viverra civertina*, locally known as 'Veruku' or 'Javed' in Malabar region, thought to be extinct but sighted again in 1987 after a hunter was caught with two skins from Elayoor Village in Nilambur.

Nature lovers can join the hunt led by the Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRl) to find the animal, which is endemic to the Western Ghats. If the survey ends in failure, it will be the second animal to get extinct in this part of the world.

Interestingly, there is no photograph available of the animal and illustrations



done by a British scientist in 1890 is the lone guide in the search. Earlier, the search for the animal led by the Wild Life Institute of India based at Dehradun ended in a failure. But E.A. Jayson of KFRl is optimistic as some residents of Nilambur have reported hearing the cries of the animal. Jayson says that the

nocturnal animal was found more in the Malabar Coast in the shrubs and cashew plantations. "Indiscreet hunting and habitat loss resulted in the animal joining the list of endangered species," he said.

A close relative of the species is the 'Pooveruku' or the Small Indian Civet which still abounds in the state.

This species is reared by ayurvedic physicians for making medicines, Jayson said. Veruku is large as a dog and preys on fowls and eggs of other animals.

The distinctive feature of the animal is its grey colour and the black dots that stretch from one end of the body to the other. The tail has got five rings in black and white colour, Jayson said. The weight of the animal ranges from 6 to 8 kilogram.

Veruku is one of the sixteen endemic species found in the Western Ghats and the conservation of this mammal is of vital importance for the eco-system of the region.

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Fig. 3. Write up appeared in the news paper asking for information on the Malabar civet sightings in the State.

water or food to the trapped animal with out opening the main door. Trapping was carried out at different parts of Elayur only.

2.2. Distribution of brochure

A three fold, colour brochure was prepared giving the prominent distinguishing features of the Malabar civet and the Small Indian civet. Thousand copies of this brochure were printed and it was distributed to the people and NGOs at Elayur and to those who were present when the field surveys were conducted. The visitors to the Kerala Forest Research Institute head quarters at Peechi and the visitors to the Sub Centre at Nilambur were also provided with these brochures (Appendix I). In each brochure – identification characters, comparison with Small Indian civet and a pencil drawing of Malabar civet was provided. Based on the brochure, newspapers published many short write ups asking information on Malabar civet from the public (Fig. 3).

2.3. Questionnaire survey

Questionnaire survey was conducted among the local communities, N.G.O's, and tribal communities using a structured questionnaire. Many individuals shared the information with out any hesitation but certain individuals were hesitant of speaking or sharing information with the authors. A sample of the questionnaire format is given in Appendix II. Seventy one respondents from different parts of Kerala were interviewed. Different locations were surveyed namely Thekkumbad, Dhallil, Madakkara, Elayur, Mankada, Vagavurray Estate, Muradikudi, Farook, Nilambur, Kannur, Wayanad and Elayur. The questionnaire elicited basic information like the identification details, profile of the respondent and awareness about the Malabar civet and the questionnaire in total contained 21 questions.

Field survey for Malabar civet and Small Indian civet

A survey of captive populations of Small Indian civet was carried out using questionnaire method and by visit to the Captive breeding centers. Based on the information gathered and received we visited the areas where the small Indian civet was kept in captivity. The farmers were very reluctant to reveal the fact of keeping the small Indian civets in captivity fearing persecution from the Forest Department as most

of these animals are held in captivity with out any proper documents. Details of the field survey are given in the Table 1.

Table 1 Details of field survey conducted in Kerala.

Sl. No.	From	To	Months	Area surveyed
1	25/03/2006	25/03/2006	March	Farook
2	03/04/2006	06/04/2006	April	Kannur
3	21/04/2006	22/04/2006	April	Trivandrum
4	14/05/2006	20/05/2006	May	Munnar
5	26/05/2006	30/05/2006	May	Nilambur
6	08/06/2006	09/06/2006	June	Nilambur
7	15/06/2006	17/06/2006	June	Nilambur
8	05/07/2006	07/07/2006	July	Nilambur
9	14/07/2006	15/07/2006	July	Nilambur
10	01/08/2006	05/08/2006	August	Nilambur
11	16/08/2006	19/08/2006	August	Nilambur
12	23/08/2006	26/08/2006	August	Nilambur
13	18/09/2006	20/08/2006	September	Nilambur

3. Results

3.1. Malabar civet

The Malabar civet is a nocturnal mammal from the *viverridae* family, although the *viverridae* is distantly related to the *felidae* family of which the common domestic cat is a member. Although most civets resemble spotted, long-nosed cats, civets of the genus *Viverra* are the most dog-like in appearance, with long legs and rather canine heads and muzzles. It can be told apart from the Small Indian civet easily by its much larger size and the dark erectile crest of hair that runs down its spine much like that of the Large Indian civet. Unlike in the Large Indian civet, the dark bands run through to the tip of the tail. The under side of the tail has 5 black and white bands. The black spots on the grey coat do not form lines or patterns but are splotched randomly.

The Malabar civet's original habitat was in the evergreen rain forest belt in the Western Ghats of southwest India, where it lived in wooded plains and adjoining hill slopes. Most captures of this species in the last 30 years have been in valleys, around riparian areas. This suggests possible dependence on shallow waterways where the civet forages at night (Ashraf *et al.* 1993). Thickets in cashew plantations may also provide important cover. The diet of the related large spotted civet *Viverra megaspila*, includes small animals; eggs and vegetable matter. To secure their food, civets have keen eyes, a sharp sense of smell and acute hearing when they hunt. Civets hunt in the manner of cats, taking prey by surprise, stalking it stealthily or pouncing on it from hiding.

The Malabar civet has never been observed in trees and possibly forages almost entirely on the ground. Species of the genus *Viverra* stay in dense cover by day and come out into the open at night. Malabar civets are aggressive towards members of their own species and have usually been observed alone. It is a large civet, almost similar in size to the Large Indian civet *Viverra zibetha* and its exact measurement is not available. However, it is believed that an adult is around 1090 to 1250 mm long including tail, which is around 330 to 400 mm and weighing up to 6.45 to 8 kg. The coat is long and full grey in colour. The body pattern is blackish and larger as compared

to the Small Indian civet. The dorsal crest is black and prominent extending from neck up to the tip of the tail. The tail has five white rings, the last one being only about 25 mm from the tip

The Malabar civet once inhabited the lowland forests in its range. In northern Kerala, it appears to be confined to thickets in cashew plantations and to highly degraded lowland forests (Ashraf, 1990). Recent surveys concluded that the typical habitat of Malabar civet is lowland swamp and riparian forests in the coastal plain Districts of Western Ghats. Little is known about its ecology and biology. It was killed for raiding poultry and is declining due to habitat loss. The Malabar civet was once very common in the Districts of North and South in southwest India, but by the late 1960's it was thought to be near extinct and the animal was not sighted again until 1987. This species of civet is one of the world's rare mammals, with no knowledge about the existing population. Two skins kept at the Zoological Survey of India Calcutta (Fig. 4) and another one kept at the Zoological Survey of India, Calicut was examined for the study.

3.1.1. Live trapping

Initially tried at Elayur but not continued as permission was not accorded from the Forest Department. Live trapping resulted in trapping of Common Palm civet. The trapping studies could not locate the species in the intensive study area at Elayur.

3.1.2. Information from Brochure

The brochure helped in spreading the message of rareness of the species and the threat to its survival. The brochure caught hold of the attention of the local reporters of the news papers and they published many write ups, in the news papers on their own. Many readers responded through phone or letters voluntarily after reading the reports. Publicity given in the prominent newspapers of the Kerala produced more than 20 responses, from all over the State but most of them turned out to be of Palm civet or the Small Indian civet on detailed enquiry (Figs. 5 & 6).



Fig. 4 Malabar civet skin available at the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta

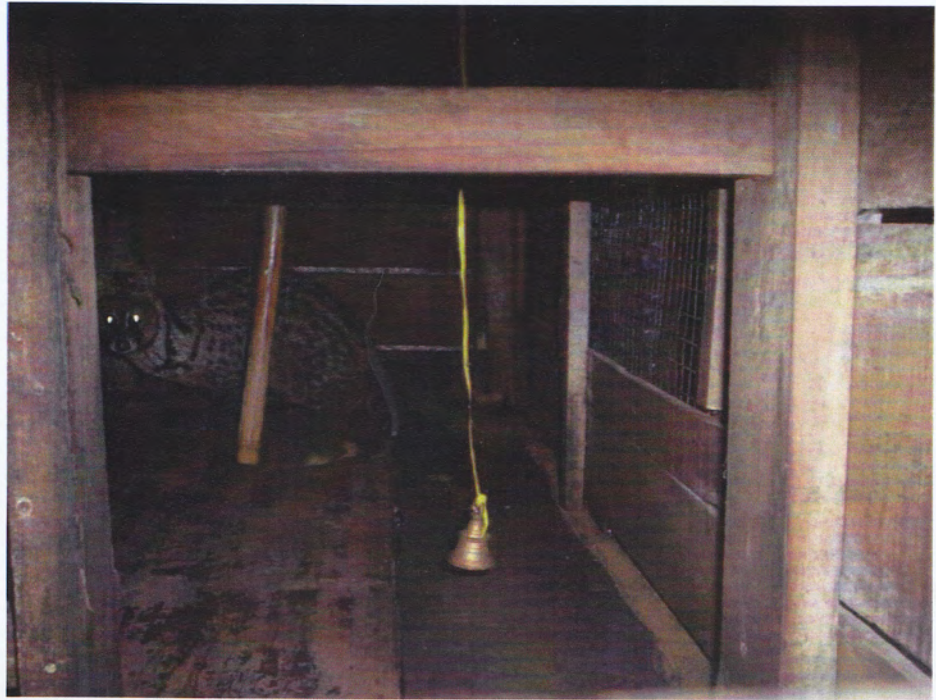


Fig. 5 Small Indian civet in captivity



Fig. 6 Hair structure of Small Indian civet

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Fig. 7. Information obtained from the public through letters and phone calls



Fig.8. A resident of Elayur (Malayil Nadikutty (65), Malayil who has sighted the Malabar civet at Elayur in the past.

3.1.3. Questionnaire survey

Malabar civets were often seen around the Cashew plantations of Elayur during the 1970 to 1990 and now the species is not sighted. Respondents from Elayur alone were aware of the Malabar civet and 4 per cent reported that they have seen the animal before 10 years (Table 2).

Table 2 Response of local people about the occurrence of Malabar civet (n= 69).

Sl.No	Awareness on the Malabar civet	Percentage (%)	Reasons for decline	Percentage (%)
1.	Seen in the past 2 years	0 %	Poaching	9 %
2.	During the past 10 years	4 %	Hunting by feral dogs	13 %
3.	Not seen	44%	Habitat loss	29 %
4.	No idea about the species	52 %	All the above	49 %

However some of the respondents in the questionnaire survey reported the sighting of the species in the area before 4 to 5 years. Most of the respondents were not sighted the species recently (Fig. 7). One respondent reported that the species was sighted in the years 1994 and also in 2002. According to him the feral dogs hunted the Malabar civet indiscriminately and they could not escape as they were not able to climb trees. A resident of Elayur claimed that he has spotted the Malabar civet earlier (Fig. 8). News paper reports appeared in the press on the study is given in Appendix.

3.1.4. Field survey for Malabar civet and Small Indian civet

Three captive Small Indian civets were located during the survey. Small Indian civet is mostly used for extracting Civitin. They were kept secretly and Civitin is extracted. Trichur is a place where Civitin is traded for the Ayurvedic medicine preparation. A seminar paper was presented on the subject at Emerald Heights College, Ooty (Sulficker and Jayson, 2007).

Table 3. Response from the public for news items appeared in the news papers.

Sl. No.	Address of the informer	Animal sighted	Remarks
01.	Mr. C.N. Jayan, Karakkal Chitoor, Agali P.O. 678 581 (Letter)	Seen Malabar civet in 1996	Attappady, Pattimattam, 03-10-2006 (Claim)
02.	Ravindran, Aswathy Iswaramangalam- 679573 (Letter)	Ponnani Town Toddy Cat	Seen above in an abandoned house 03-10-2006
03.	Unnamed Letter	Nedumangad, Koikkal Palace area	Not seen now as the trees have been cut
04.	Mr. Ranjith, Cherthala, SN College (By Phone)	Near Kalasagar area	Seen
05.	Unnamed (By Phone)	Near Vaikkom	Now not seen
06.	Trichur (By phone)	Kept in captivity for Civitin extraction	Ayurvedic collection centers in Trichur town
07.	Mr. Saju (By Phone)	Trichur (Seen)	Toddy Cat
08.	Mr. Sivadas RO, COIRFED, Thevally Quilon (By Phone)	Seen	Toddy cat
09	Paravur Santhimadam Ashram (By Phone)	Seen	Toddy Cat?
10)	Mr. Biju, Ponnani (By phone)	Civet seen	Toddy Cat?

3.2. Other Civets

3.2.1. Common palm civet

Common palm civets were reported from Trichur, Nilambur, Wayanad and many other places. We visited the above locations and examined the specimens. Common palm civet is often confused as Malabar civet by local people (Figs. 9 & 10).

A news report had appeared in the press claiming that Malabar civet was spotted in Wayanad but it turned out to be only a Common palm civet (Figs. 11, 12 & 13).

4. Discussion and Conclusions

The field surveys and the questionnaire surveys could not locate the critically endangered Malabar civet during the study. Due to the drastic changes in the land use pattern, the suitable habitat for this animal has been lost. Potential loss of the remaining habitat is a reality in the immediate future. As the habitat of the species is in the private hands, governmental control will be needed to conserve the habitat. Hunting is still prevalent in the area for small game which is highly detrimental to the survival of the Malabar civet. Predation by feral dogs is another threat to the existence of the species. Human settlements are increasing in the area which is also not favourable to the species. It was not possible to locate the species during the study period but that does not mean that the species is extinct. As the species is nocturnal, there is every chance of some individuals remaining in some remote pockets.

The drastic change in the land use pattern in the recent past is one of the reasons for its decline. Cashew plantations have been converted into rubber and other cash crops, resulting in the loss of the remaining habitat (Figs.14 and 15). Extensive deforestation has reduced the forests in the Malabar civet's original range to a series of isolated patches and the habitat loss is continuing. Cashew plantations, which probably hold most of the surviving populations of Malabar civet, are now threatened by large-scale clearance for planting rubber. If we can save the animal from extinction by spreading the message of conservation an endemic mammal in the Western Ghats will be conserved for the posterity. Only way to achieve this objective is to make more people aware about the rareness of the species, so that if the species reappears anywhere, the information will be reported to the authorities, who will be able to confirm the presence of the species.



Fig. 9. Common palm civet often confused as Malabar civet by local people



Fig. 10. A dead Common palm civet brought to the KFRI head quarters at Peechi



Fig. 11 Common palm civet juvenile brought to the DFO at Nilambur



Fig. 12 Common palm civet caught in the live trap



കല്ലറ്റയിൽ കണ്ടെത്തിയ മലബാർ വെരുക്

മലബാർ വെരുകിനെ കൽപ്പറ്റയിൽ കണ്ടെത്തി

കല്ലറ്റ: വംശനാശ ഭീഷണി നേരിടുന്ന 'മലബാർ വെരുകിനെ കൽപ്പറ്റയിലെ ഇൻറർനെറ്റ് കമെന്റിൽ കണ്ടെത്തി. പി.ഡബ്ല്യു. ഡി. റോഡിലെ സൈബർനെറ്റ് കമെന്റിലാണ് ബുധനാഴ്ച രാവിലെ വെരുക് അകപ്പെട്ടത്. ഉടമ എസ്. ശിവനും അവിടത്തെ ഫോട്ടോഗ്രാഫറായ എം.ബി. അജീഷ് ചെങ്കുറ്റിയും ചേർന്ന് കടതുറന്നപ്പോഴാണ് ഷട്ടറിനിടയിൽ പതുങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്ന വെരുകിനെ കണ്ടത്. അരയടി ഉയരവും ഒരടി നീളവുമാണ്. അജീഷ് പടമെടുത്തു. ഇരുവരും ചേർന്ന് വെരുകിനെ പിടികൂടി കല്ലറ്റ റെയ്ഞ്ച് ഓഫീസിലെത്തിച്ചു. പിന്നീട് വനപാലകരതിനെ പടിഞ്ഞാറത്തറ വനത്തിൽ കൊണ്ടുവിട്ടു.

അപൂർവ്വമായാണ് മലബാർ വെരുക് പകൽ പുറത്തിറങ്ങാറ്. രാത്രിയിലാണ് ആഹാരം ലഭ്യമാക്കാനായി ഇവ പുറത്തിറങ്ങുക. പനങ്കൂരു തേടി പനമുകളിൽ വസിക്കുന്നതിനാൽ 'പന വെരുകെ'ന്നും അറിയപ്പെടാറുണ്ട്. ചെറു പ്രാണികളും പഴുവർഗങ്ങളുമാണ് പ്രധാന ആഹാരം. പഴുത്ത കാപ്പിക്കൂരു ഏറെ പ്രിയമാണ്. കറുപ്പ് കലർന്ന ചെമ്പൻ നിറമാണിതിന്. ഉടലിൽ പുള്ളികളുണ്ട്.

Fig. 13. Confusing reports usually appeared in the press about the wrong sightings of Malabar civet



Fig. 14. Fresh areas being cleared for planting rubber



Fig. 15. Cashew plantations where the Malabar civet was once located

5. Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Dr. R. Gnanaharan Director, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi and Dr. C. Renuka, Programme Co-ordinator FEBC for all the encouragement and timely help. Many people helped the survey by providing information on the Malabar civet. Dr. J.K. Sharma, (former Director, KFRI) keenly followed the study and offered encouragement and suggestions for the successful completion of the work. Dr. K.K. Ramachandran, Scientist- in-Charge (F) offered many suggestions to an earlier draft, which helped in improving the style of the report.

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"ബെൽകിൻ പൂച്ച" എന്ന പേരിലറിയപ്പെടുന്ന മരുന്ന് ഉപയോഗത്തിന് വേണ്ടി ഇത്തരം വെളു കൃഷ്ണ വലയം വളർത്തി വരുന്നു. ഇത്തരം വളർത്തു വെളു കൃഷ്ണകളിൽ മലബാർ വെളു കൃഷ്ണ എന്നും ഈ പാമ്പിന്മേൽ നിന്ന് അറിയാൻ കഴിയും. മരണപ്പെടാൻ മലബാർ വെളു കൃഷ്ണകളെ പൊതുവെ ഇരപിടിക്കുക. കർണ്ണാടകത്തിലെ ഉത്തര കന്നഡ മുതൽ

കന്യാകുമാരി വരെ മലബാർ വെളു കൃഷ്ണകളെ വേർതിരിച്ചു കണ്ടിരുന്നതായി പറയാവുന്നതും വരുന്നവർ ഉണ്ട്. മലബാറിന്റെ തീരങ്ങളിൽ കണ്ടുവരുന്ന കർണ്ണാടക തോപ്പുകളുടെ നാശം ഈ ജീവിതരീതി വാഗ്ദാനം അതിന് ഒരു കാരണമായി കണക്കാക്കുന്നു.



മലബാർ വെളു കൃഷ്ണ

മലബാർ വെളു കൃഷ്ണ (ജാവേദ)

Viverra civettina



കേരള വനഗവേഷണ ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ട്
(കേരള സർക്കാർ ഓൺ-തസ്തികയിലുള്ള പരിസ്ഥിതി പഠനസംസ്ഥാനം)
പി.പി.പി.പി., തൃശ്ശൂർ - 680 653

**മലബാർ വെരുക് (ജാവേദ്)
Viverra civettina**

മലബാർ വെരുക് (ജാവേദ്) *Viverra civettina* പശ്ചിമഘട്ടത്തിൽ മാത്രം കണ്ടുവരുന്ന വെരുക് കിൻ വംശത്തിൽ പെട്ട ഒരേ ജീവിയാണ്. കന്യാകുമാരി മുതൽ കർണ്ണാടകത്തിലെ ഹോസാനൂർ വരെ ഈ വെരുക് കിൻ കണ്ടുവരുന്ന മലബാർ ഉണ്ട്. പുറവെരുക് കേരളത്തിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ കാണപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും മലബാർ വെരുക് വംശ നാശം വന്നുകഴിഞ്ഞു എന്നാണ് കരുതപ്പെടുന്നത്.

1987-ൽ ആണ് ഈ വെരുക് കിൻ നിലവിലിൽ കാണപ്പെടുകയുണ്ടായത്. അതിനുശേഷം ഇതുവരെ പല സർവ്വേകൾ നടന്നെങ്കിലും ഈ ജാവേദിനെ ആദ്യം കാണുകയുണ്ടായില്ല. ഈ പശ്ചാത്തലത്തിലാണ് വനശവരംകണ്ടുകുന്ദം, പീച്ചി, തൃശൂർ ഈ വെരുക് കിൻ കുറിച്ച് പഠനം തുടങ്ങിയിരിക്കുന്നത്. അതോടനുബന്ധിച്ച് ജാവേദിന്റെ സംരക്ഷണത്തിന് വളരെയധികം പ്രാധാന്യം കല്പിച്ചുവരുന്നു.

പുറവെരുക് കിനെയും വലിച്ചുവെള്ള മലബാർ വെരുക് കിന് പൂർണ്ണ വളർച്ചയെത്തുമ്പോൾ 199 cm മുതൽ 125 cm വരെ വാലടക്കം നീളമുണ്ടാകും. ഓരോ 6 1/2 കിലോഗ്രാം മുതൽ 8 കിലോഗ്രാം വരെ ഉണ്ടാകും. പാർ നിറത്തിലുള്ളതാണ് ശരീരം പുറവെരുക് കിനെയും വലിച്ചുവെരുക് കിനെയും കൂടുതലും ആണ്. മുട്ട കിൻ കൂടി പോകുന്നതിനാൽ വെരുക് കിൻ മാത്രമാണ് കൂടി കൂടിയ തോളാണ് ജാവേ

ദിനെ പുറവെരുക് കിൻ നിന്ന് വിലിനമാക്കുന്നത്. ഇതു, കൂടാതെ വാലിലുള്ള അഞ്ച് വെരുക് വളയങ്ങൾ, അവസാനത്തേത് വാലിന്റെ ആറു അറ്റത്ത് 25 mm മാത്രം ഉള്ളിൽ ആയിരിക്കും. ഇത് പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട തിരിച്ചറിവ് അടയാളമാണ്. വടക്കൻ കേരളത്തിലെ കടുമാവിൻ തോപ്പുകളിലും കൂറ്റിക്കാടുകളിൽ നിറഞ്ഞ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലുമാണ് ജാവേദിനെ കണ്ടുവന്നിരുന്നത്. രാത്രിയിൽ കർമ്മമിതനാകുന്ന ഈ ജീവി സൂര്യൻ ഉദിക്കുന്നതോടുകൂടി കുറ്റിക്കാടുകളിലേക്കും തോപ്പുകളിലേക്കും പോകുന്നതാണ് കണ്ടുവരുന്നത്. ഈ ജീവിയുടെ ജീവിതരീതിയെക്കുറിച്ച് വളരെയൊന്നും ശാസ്ത്രലോകത്തിന് അറിവില്ല. പലങ്ങൾ, പൊതുജീവികൾ, ജോലിയിലുള്ള മുട്ട മുതലായവയാണ് പ്രധാന ഭക്ഷണമേഖലകൾ. ഇവയ്ക്കാണ് പ്രധാന ഭക്ഷണമേഖലകൾ. ഇവയ്ക്കാണ് പ്രധാന ഭക്ഷണമേഖലകൾ. ഇവയ്ക്കാണ് പ്രധാന ഭക്ഷണമേഖലകൾ.

തിരിച്ചറിവ് മാർഗ്ഗം

മലബാർ വെരുക് (ജാവേദ്)

1. ചാർണിറത്തിലുള്ള ശരീരത്തിൽ കറുത്ത പുള്ളികൾ വരിവരിയായി
2. വാലിന്റെ അടിഭാഗത്ത് വെളുപ്പിലും കറുപ്പിലുമുള്ള 5 വരിയിലുള്ള വളയങ്ങൾ
3. ഓരോ 6 1/2 കിലോഗ്രാം മുതൽ 8 കിലോഗ്രാം
4. ശരീരത്തിന്റെ നീളം വാലടക്കം 125 cm
5. പ്രധാനമായും കാണുന്നത് കടുമാവിൻ തോപ്പുകളിലും കൂറ്റിക്കാടുകളിലും

പുറവെരുക്

1. തെളുത്ത പാർണിറത്തിലുള്ള ശരീരം



2. വാലിൽ 8 മുതൽ 10 വരെ വെളുപ്പിലും കറുപ്പിലും വളയങ്ങൾ
3. ഓരോ 2 1/2 മുതൽ 3 1/2 കിലോഗ്രാം
4. 45 cm മുതൽ 60 cm
5. എല്ലായിടത്തും കാണപ്പെടുന്നു.

ഈ പഠനത്തിന്റെ മുഖ്യ ഉദ്ദേശ്യം, അത്യന്തം പരിതാപകരമായ നിലയിൽ വംശനാശഭീഷണി നേരിടുന്ന മലബാർ വെരുക് കിൻ കേരളത്തിൽ കണ്ടെത്തുകയും അവയുടെ സംരക്ഷണം ഉറപ്പു വരുത്തുകയുമാണ്. ഈ ഉദ്ദേശ്യത്തിൽ എല്ലാ പ്രകൃതി സംരംഭകരുടെയും സഹകരണം പ്രതീക്ഷിക്കുന്നു.

മലബാർ വെരുക് കിനെയും, പുറവെരുക് കിനെയും കുറിച്ച് എന്തെങ്കിലും അറിയാവുന്നവർ താഴെ പറയുന്ന വിലാസത്തിൽ ബന്ധപ്പെടുക.

ഡോ. ജി.എ. ജയർസൺ
കേരള വനശവരംകണ്ട ജർണലിസ്റ്റ്
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Appendix I Brochure, requesting information on Malabar civet (Back side)

7. Appendices

II



KERALA FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE THRISSUR - 680 653 KERALA

(An Institution of Kerala State Council for Science Technology and Environment,
Government of Kerala)

QUESTIONNAIRE ON MALABAR CIVET

Project No. KFRI 481/2005

SCHEDULE

DATE

NAME

TIME

PLACE

Identification Details

1. Name of the Panchayath

2. Type of the nearby cultivation

*Coconut

*Paddy

*Areca nut

*Banana

*Cashew plantation

*Mixed

Profile of the respondent

3. Name of the respondent

4. Age

5.Sex

6.Education

7.Marital status

8.Occupation

Awareness of the person

9. Do you know Malabar civet/Jawed? Yes / No

10. Have you seen the civet cat
Jawed / Pooveruke/ Toddy cat

11.If yes, details about the types

12.How is the availability of the civet?

- * Plenty
- * Moderate
- * Not available

13. Types of vegetation preferred by the civet

- * Forest
- * Grasslands
- * Other

14.Which type of food is preferred by the civet

- * Vegetarian
- * Non-vegetarian
- * Both

15. Do you catch / hunt any animals?

16. Which are the animals you come across while hunting?

17. Details about the catching / hunting

* Medicinal

* Food

* Others

18. Are you aware of Small Indian civet (Pooveruke) yes / no

19. Details of the Small Indian civet sighting

* Location

* Vegetation

20. Since how long you have seen the Small Indian civet

* Months

* 1 year

* More

21. Remarks:

Place:

Date :

Signature

Research Fellow

**Appendix III. Awareness about the Malabar civet in the State of Kerala
-profile of respondents.**

Sl. no.	Date	Place and District	Habitat	Name	Age	Educational	Occupation	Awareness about Malabar civet
1	04/04/06	Madakkara, Kannur	Coconut and Mangrove	Prakash	42	SSLC	Fishermen	No
2	04/04/06	Madakkara, Kannur	Coconut and Mangrove	Jalaja	42	9th	Housewife	No
3	04/04/06	Madakkara, Kannur	Coconut and Mangrove	Salaudhin	17	SSLC	Student	No
4	05/04/06	Madakkara, Kannur	Coconut and Mangrove	Hassan E	65	5th	Fish Business	No
5	05/04/06	Thekkumbad, Kannur	Coconut and Mangrove	Balan	48	SSLC	Farmer	No
6	05/04/06	Thekkumbad, Kannur	Coconut and Mangrove	Ramesh	36	SSLC	Farmer	No
7	05/04/06	Thekkumbad, Kannur	Coconut and Mangrove	Santhosh	33	Pre-degree	Farmer	No
8	06/04/06	Dhallil, Kannur	Coconut and Mangrove	Chandaran	52	6th	Fishermen	No
9	06/04/06	Dhallil, Kannur	Coconut and Mangrove	Nooruddin	38	4th	Fishermen	No
10	18/05/06	Vagavurray Estate	Tea plantation	M.Kaliappan	45	11th	Forest Watcher	No
11	18/05/06	Vagavurray Estate	Tea plantation	T.Murugan	47	SSLC	Forest Watcher	No
12	18/05/06	Muradikudi	Forest areas	K.Palani swamy	52	8th	Forest Watcher	No
13	27/05/06	Elayur	Paddy and Cashew	P.C.Chandran	35	Degree	Daily wage	Yes
14	27/05/06	Elayur	Paddy, Cashew and Coconut	K. P.Dinesh	30	Pre-degree	Film Rep	Yes
15	29/05/06	Elayur	Paddy, Cashew and Coconut	P. Jabbar	30	SSLC	Business	Yes
16	29/05/06	Elayur	Paddy, Cashew and Coconut	C.Moidheen	43	SSLC (ITI)	Farmer	Yes
17	30/05/06	Manakada	Mixed Plantation	Smitha	32	Pre-degree	Housewife	No

18	08/06/06	Elayur	Mixed Plantation	Srinivasan	48	Pre-degree	Running nursery	Yes
19	16/06/06	Elayur	Mixed Plantation	Alibapu	47	SSLC	Driver	Yes
20	04/08/06	Elayur	Mixed Plantation	M.Salih. K.T	49	M.A. B.Ed	Teacher	Yes
21	04/08/06	Elayur	Mixed Plantation	M. Kutty	51	M.A. B.Ed	Teacher	Yes
22				Jayaprakash				Yes
23	04/10/06	Malappuram	Coconut and Paddy	Sujatha. M	32	B.A B.Ed	Teacher	No
24	04/10/06	Malappuram	Mixed Plantation	Mary N	28	B.A.	Teacher	No
25	04/10/06	Malappuram	Mixed Plantation	Mohanan P	46	M.A. B.Ed	Teacher	No
26	05/10/06	Chandakunnu	Mixed Plantation	Sajidha. M	27	B.A.	Teacher	No
27	05/10/06	Chandakunnu	Mixed Plantation	Mohammed Ali	52	M.Sc.B. Ed	Teacher	No
28	05/10/06	Chandakunnu	Mixed Plantation	Sajidha. M	27	B.Sc. B.Ed	Teacher	No
29	18/10/06	Elayur	Mixed Plantation	Ansar.V	42	SSLC	Coolie	Yes
30	18/10/06	Elayur	Mixed Plantation	Mohammed Kutty	56	7th Std	No	Yes
31	18/10/06	Elayur	Mixed Plantation	Velayudhan	56	5th Std	Coolie	Yes
32	18/10/06	Elayur	Mixed Plantation	Madhavi	52	7th Std	Housewife	Yes
33	22/11/06	Elayur	Mixed Plantation	Ummar	42	SSLC	Business	No
34	22/11/06	Elayur	Mixed Plantation	Ummar Koya	52	5th	Coolie	Yes
35	24/11/06	Pukolathur	Mixed Plantation	Cheriya Baputti	51	7th Std	Daily wage	Yes
36	24/11/06	Pukolathur	Mixed Plantation	Valliya Baputti	56	7th Std	Daily wage	Yes
37	24/11/06	Pukolathur	Mixed Plantation	Allavikutty Haji	52	5th Std	Coolie	Yes
38	24/11/06	Pukolathur	Mixed Plantation	Nani Musliar	48	SSLC	Priest(Mosque)	Yes
39	04/12/06	Elayur	Mixed Plantation	Naryanan	50	5th Std	Taxi Driver	Yes
41	04/12/06	Elayur	Mixed Plantation	Babu	28	SSLC	Coolie	No
41	04/12/06	Elayur	Mixed Plantation	Hassan	53	7th Std	Driver	Yes
42	04/12/06	Elayur	Mixed Plantation	Anwar	27	Pre-degree	Auto Driver	Yes
43	04/12/06	Elayur	Mixed Plantation	Prakash	40	Pre-degree	Driver	Yes
44	04/12/06	Pukolathur	Mixed Plantation	Anil	32	Pre-degree	Driver	No
45	04/12/06	Pukolathur	Mixed Plantation	Maryamma	51	5th Std	Coolie	Yes
46	18/01/07	Elayur	Mixed	Nadikutt	57	SSLC	Coolie	No

			Plantation	y				
47	18/01/07	Elayur	Mixed Plantation	Balakrishnan	42	Degree	Lineman (Tele)	Yes
48	18/01/07	Elayur	Mixed Plantation	Naryanan	49	7th Std	Coolie	Yes
49	18/01/07	Elayur	Mixed Plantation	Hameed	35	Pre-degree	Auto Driver	No
50	18/01/07	Elayur	Mixed Plantation	Kunzalli	52	7th Std	Coolie	Yes
51	20/02/07	Muthanga Forest	Forest areas	Ayappan	34	SSLC	Cook	No
52	23/02/07	Muthanga Forest	Forest areas	Bhumi	35	Nil	Coolie	No
53	23/02/07	Muthanga Forest	Forest areas	Radha	24	Degree	No	No
54	23/02/07	Muthanga Forest	Forest areas	Krishna	28	3rd std	No	No
55	23/02/07	Muthanga Forest	Forest areas	Kamala	30	4th std	Coolie	No
56	23/02/07	Muthanga Forest	Forest areas	Maran	38	5th std	Coolie	No
57	23/02/07	Muthanga Forest	Forest areas	Gopi	42	Nil	Mahooth	No
58	23/02/07	Muthanga Forest	Forest areas	Geetha	38	Nil	Coolie	No
59	23/02/07	Muthanga Forest	Forest areas	Kullan	45	Nil	Mahooth	No
60	23/02/07	Muthanga Forest	Forest areas	Janaki	38	Nil	Coolie	No
61	23/02/07	Muthanga Forest	Forest areas	Govindhan	44	Nil	Mahooth	No
62	24/02/07	Muthanga Forest	Forest areas	Santhosh	35	2nd std	Mahooth	No
63	24/02/07	Muthanga Forest	Forest areas	Kaveri	28	SSLC	Housewife	No
64	24/02/07	Muthanga Forest	Forest areas	Usha	36	Nil	Coolie	No
65	24/02/07	Muthanga Forest	Forest areas	Kallan	48	Nil	Mahooth	No
66	24/02/07	Muthanga Forest	Forest areas	Latha	29	SSLC	Housewife	No
67	24/02/07	Muthanga Forest	Forest areas	Krishanan	38	SSLC	Daily wage	No
68	21/02/07	Muthanga Forest	Forest areas	Suresh	24	2nd std	Tracker	No
69	24/02/07	Muthanga Forest	Mixed plantation with forest	Danesh	20	SSLC	Cement worker	No
70	24/02/07	Ottappalam	Mixed plantation with forest	Keshavan	45	7th Std	Daily wage	No
71	24/02/07	Muthanga Forest	Mixed plantation with forest	Rajesh	29	SSLC	Cement worker	No

Appendix IV. Awareness about other Civets in the State of Kerala

Sl. no.	Place	Small Indian civet	Common palm civet	Use	Availability of civets	Recent sighting of other civets	Remarks
1	Madakkara	Yes	Yes	Medicine	Available	1 years back	He has seen the Toddy cat and Small Indian civet
2	Madakkara	No	No	No idea	Not available	Not seen	She has not seen in local areas, but seen in zoos.
3	Madakkara	No	Yes	Food	Rare	1 year back	He has seen the civet on mango tree, using it as food.
4	Madakkara	No	Yes	Medicine and food	Available	6 months back	He has seen Small Indian civet and Toddy cat six months back.
5	Thekkumbad	No	Yes	Food	Moderate	1 year back	He has seen on the palm trees
6	Thekkumbad	No	No	No idea	Not available	Not seen	He don't know about the civet
7	Thekkumbad	No	No	No idea	Not available	Not seen	Not seen and also some people are afraid to part with information.
8	Dalil	No	No	No idea	Not available	Not seen	Heard about the civet medicine, but not seen the civet in these areas.
9	Dalil	No	No	No idea	Not available	Not seen	Heard about the civet medicine, but not seen.

10	Vaguvarrai Estate	Yes	Yes	Food	Moderate	2 weeks back	He has seen the civet cat nearby the tea plantation in his home.
11	Vaguvarrai Estate	Yes	Yes	Food	Moderate	3 months back	Aware of civets.
12	Muradikudi	Yes	Yes	Food	Moderate	1 year back	Aware of civets.
13	Elayur	Yes	Yes	Food	Plenty	1 year back	Species has not become extinct.
14	Elayur	Yes	Yes	Food	Plenty	3 months back	Aware, killed some of them unknowingly.
15	Elayur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Plenty	1 year back	Confident about the presence of Malabar civet.
16	Elayur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	2 months back	Still present in our area.
17	Manakada	Yes	Yes	Medicine	Moderate	Daily	Her father is a Vydhair, he kept Small Indian civets in captivity.
18	Elayur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	1 years back	People of Elayur know Malabar civet very well, and nowadays it is not seen.
19	Elayur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	1 years back	He caught the Malabar Civet before 12-14 years back. Now it is difficult.
20	Elayur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	10 years back	He has seen the Malabar civet when they have caught at Elayur.
21	Elayur	Yes	Yes	Medicine	Moderate	5 years	In old days

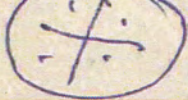
				and food		back	he has seen the Malabar civet
22	Elayur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	Months back	He has seen the Malabar civet while he was working the field.
23	Malappuram	Yes	Yes	Medicine	Moderate	1 year back	Know about the Small Indian and palm civets.
24	Malappuram	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	1 year back	She has seen the civets in zoos
25	Malappuram	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	Months back	Aware of Civet, but no idea about the Malabar civet.
26	Chandakunnu	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	1 year back	Aware about the Malabar civet and seen the Small Indian and palm civet.
27	Chandakunnu	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	1 year back	Know about the Small Indian and palm civets, but no idea about Malabar civet.
28	Chandakunnu	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	More than year	No idea about the civet.
29	Elayur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	1 years back	In the childhood he had seen it, now it is not available.
30	Elayur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	More than year	He knows about the Malabar civet, now it's not

							available.
31	Elayur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	1 year back	20 years back they have seen Malabar civet in plenty, but now its not available
32	Elayur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	1 years back	Know about the Malabar civet, now its not there.
33	Elayur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	1 year back	He heard about the Malabar Civet but not seen it.
34	Elayur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	Months back	Before 15-20 years he has seen Malabar civet
35	Pukolathur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	More than year	Know about the Malabar civet during 1980-1992, afterwards it decreased.
36	Pukolathur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	More than year	Decreased due to deforestation of cashew.
37	Pukolathur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	1 year back	Now it's not available.
38	Pukolathur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	More than year	He has not seen it, but know about the Malabar Civet
39	Elayur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	1 year back	Malabar civet is not available.
41	Elayur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	More than year	Aware about the Malabar civet but not seen it before.
41	Elayur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	1 year back	All knows about Malabar civet

							in their childhood days.
42	Elayur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	More than year	He has not seen it, but knows about the Malabar civet.
43	Elayur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Not available	More than year	Not seen the Malabar civet
44	Pukolathur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	1 year back	Knows about the Small Indian and palm civet
45	Pukolathur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Not available	More than year	Seen it before.
46	Elayur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	Months back	Now it's not available.
47	Elayur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Not available	1 year back	Seen the palm and Small Indian civets
48	Elayur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	6 months back	Knows about the Palm and Small Indian civet.
49	Elayur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Not available	1 year back	No idea about the Malabar civet.
50	Elayur	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Not available	More than year	Knows about the Malabar civet earlier in their childhood days.
51	Muthanga Forest	Yes	Yes	Do not know	Not available	More than year	Knows about the Palm and Small Indian civet.
52	Muthanga Forest	Yes	Yes	Do not know	Not available	More than year	No idea in the forest.
53	Muthanga Forest	No	Yes	Do not know	Not available	More than year	She has seen the Palm civet only.
54	Muthanga	No	Yes	Food	Not	More	He knows the

	Forest				available	than year	Palm civet.
55	Muthanga Forest	No	Yes	Do not know	Not available	More than year	She knows the palm civet.
56	Muthanga Forest	No	No	Do not know	Not available	Not seen	No idea.
57	Muthanga Forest	No	Yes	Do not know	Not available	More than year	Knows about the Palm civet.
58	Muthanga Forest	No	No	Do not know	Not available	Not seen	No idea about the civet.
59	Muthanga Forest	Yes	Yes	Food	Not available	More than year	Seen in earlier days, now in these forest areas they couldn't find the civet.
60	Muthanga Forest	No	No	Do not know	Not available	Not seen	No idea.
61	Muthanga Forest	No	Yes	Food	Not available	More than year	Seen only the palm civet.
62	Muthanga Forest	Yes	Yes	Food	Not available	More than year	Seen the civet long ago.
63	Muthanga Forest	No	Yes	Do not know	Not available	More than year	No idea about the civet.
64	Muthanga Forest	No	Yes	Do not know	Not available	More than year	Seen in her native place on palm trees.
65	Muthanga Forest	No	Yes	Food	Not available	More than year	Palm civet used as food
66	Muthanga Forest	No	Yes	Food	Not available	More than year	Not much idea, she knows that civet is used as food.
67	Muthanga Forest	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Not available	More than year	He has seen the palm and Small Indian civet.
68	Muthanga Forest	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Not available	More than year	Aware about the Palm and Small Indian

							civet.
69	Muthanga Forest	No	Yes	Food	Moderate	More than year	Seen the palm civet.
70	Ottappalam	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	More than year	Not seen the Malabar civet.
71	Muthanga Forest	Yes	Yes	Medicine and food	Moderate	More than year	Aware of Malabar civet commonly called as Mullan Panni Mervu



മലബാർ വെരുകിന് വംശനാശം നേരിട്ടതായി സംശയം

സി.സജിത്



മലബാർ വെരുക

നിലമ്പൂർ: പശ്ചിമഘട്ട താഴ്വരയിൽ മാത്രമുണ്ടായിരുന്ന മലബാർ വെരുകിന് വംശനാശം നേരിട്ടതായി ശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞർ കരുതുന്നു. മലബാർ വെരുകി അവശേഷിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ എന്നറിയാൻ കേരള വനഗവേഷണകേന്ദ്രം പഠനം തുടങ്ങി.

കന്യാകുമാരി മുതൽ കർണാടകയിലെ ഹോനാവർവരെ ഈ വെരുകിനെ നേരത്തെ കണ്ടതായി രേഖകളുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ 1987ൽ മലപ്പുറം ജില്ലയിലെ എളയൂരിലാണ് അവസാനമായി കണ്ടത്. അതിനുശേഷം വൈൽഡ് ലൈഫ് ഇൻസ്റ്റിറ്റ്യൂട്ടിന്റെ തുറപ്പെടെ നിരവധി പഠനങ്ങൾ നടന്നെങ്കിലും ഇതിനെ കണ്ടെത്താൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ല.

പൂർണ്ണവളർച്ചയെത്തിയ മലബാർ വെരുകിന് 109 സെ.മീ. മുതൽ 125 സെ. മീ. വരെ വാലടക്കം നീളമുണ്ടാകും. ആറരക്കിലോ മുതൽ എട്ടുകിലോവരെ ഭാരവും ഉണ്ടാകും. ചാർനിറമാണ്. കട്ടികൂടിയ രോമങ്ങളാണ് മല

ബാർ വെരുകിനെ സാധാരണ കണ്ടുവരുന്ന പൂവെരുകിന് നിന്ന് വ്യത്യസ്തമാക്കുന്നത്.

കൂടാതെ ഇതിന്റെ വാലിന് അഞ്ച് വെളുത്ത വളയങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കും. മലബാറിന്റെ തീരങ്ങളിലെ കശുമാവിൻതോപ്പുകളിലായിരുന്നു ഇതിനെ നേരത്തെ കണ്ടിരുന്നത്. എന്നാൽ ഇതിന്റെ ജീവിതരീതിയെക്കുറിച്ച് ശാസ്ത്രലോകത്തിന് കൃത്യതലായൊന്നും അറിയില്ലെന്ന് പഠ

നത്തിന് നേതൃത്വം നൽകുന്ന കെ.എഫ്.ആർ.ഐ സയൻസിസ് ഡോ. ഇ.എ. ജെയ്സൺ പറഞ്ഞു.

ചെറുജീവികൾ, ഫലങ്ങൾ, മറ്റു ജീവികളുടെ മുട്ട എന്നിവയ്ക്കാണ് പ്രധാന ഭക്ഷണമെന്ന് കരുതുന്നു. ഇവ മരത്തിൽ കയറുന്നതായി തെളിവുകളുമില്ല.

വെരുകിൻപുഴു എന്നപേരിലറിയപ്പെടുന്ന മരുന്നിനുവേണ്ടി ഇവ വേട്ടയാടപ്പെട്ടതായും സംശയിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്.

Appendix V. Study generated much interest among press and local people

മലബാർ വെരുകിന്റെ വംശനാശം: പീച്ചിയിലെ ശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞർ റിപ്പോർട്ട് തയ്യാറാക്കുന്നു

രാജേഷ് പടിയത്ത്

തൃശൂർ പശ്ചിമഘട്ടത്തിൽ മാത്രം കണ്ടു വരുന്ന വെരുകിൻ വംശത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട ജാലോപ്പ എന്ന നിയമപ്പെടുന്ന മലബാർ വെരുകി ഇന്നി പിടികിട്ടാപ്പുള്ളി.

മലബാർ വെരുകിൻ വംശനാശം സംഭവിച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞുവെന്ന അതിമനീഗമനത്തിൽ എത്തിയ ശേഷം പീച്ചി കേരള വനശേഷണ കേന്ദ്രത്തിലെ ശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞർ ഇതു സംബന്ധിച്ച റിപ്പോർട്ട് സമർപ്പിക്കാൻ ഒരുങ്ങുകയാണ്. വംശനാശം സംഭവിച്ചുവെന്ന പ്രഖ്യാപിക്കാനുള്ള അധികാരം കെ.എഫ്.ആർ.ഐക്സ് ഇല്ലെങ്കിലും മലബാർ വെരുകിന്റെ കാര്യത്തിൽ പ്രതിക്ഷകന്മാരണമെന്നാണ് മലബാർ വെരുകിനെ അന്വേഷിച്ചു കണ്ടെത്താൻ ശ്രമിച്ച കെ.എഫ്.ആർ.ഐക്സിയിലെ ഡോ. ഇ.എ. ജെയ്സൻ പറയുന്നത്.

കഴിഞ്ഞ രണ്ടു വർഷക്കാലമായി ജെയ്സനും കുട്ടികാരും മലബാർ വെരുകിനെ കണ്ടെത്താനുള്ള അവസാനവട്ട ശ്രമങ്ങളിലായിരുന്നു. കണ്ടെത്താൻ കഴിഞ്ഞില്ലെന്നു ചൂണ്ടിക്കാട്ടി ഞങ്ങളിറപ്പാർ അന്വേഷണ റിപ്പോർട്ട് തയ്യാറാക്കി വരികയാണ്. മലബാർ

വെരുകിനെ തേടിയുള്ള കെ.എഫ്.ആർ.ഐക്സിയിലെ അന്വേഷണം ഇത്രയും അവസാനിക്കും - ഡോ. ജെയ്സൻ വിശദീകരിച്ചു.

1987ലാണ് മലബാർ വെരുകിനെ നിലമ്പൂരിൽപ്പെട്ടു അവസാനമായി കണ്ടെത്തിയത്. വംശനാശം സംഭവിച്ചു കഴിഞ്ഞുവെന്നു അതുവരെ വിശ്വസിച്ചിരുന്ന ഇതിനെ കണ്ടെത്തിയതോടെ വിണ്ടും അന്വേഷണങ്ങളും സർവ്വകലാശാല തുടങ്ങി. ഇതേ തുടർന്നാണ് തൃശൂർ പീച്ചിയിലുള്ള വനശേഷണ കേന്ദ്രം ഈ വെരുകിനെക്കുറിച്ചു സമഗ്ര അന്വേഷണ പഠനങ്ങളുമായി രംഗത്തിറങ്ങിയത്.

രണ്ടുവർഷം മുമ്പ് തുടങ്ങിയ സർവ്വേ ഇക്കഴിഞ്ഞ മാർച്ചിലാണ് അവസാനിച്ചത്. സർവ്വേ മാർച്ചിൽ അവസാനിച്ചെങ്കിലും ആറു മാസം കൂടി കഴിഞ്ഞിരുന്ന ശേഷമാണ് അന്വേഷകർ കെ.എഫ്.ആർ.ഐക്സിയിൽ സമർപ്പിക്കാൻ പോകുന്നത്. ഇന്റർനാഷണൽ യൂണിയൻ ഫോർ കൺസർവേഷൻ ഓഫ് നാച്യുറൽ നാച്യുറൽ റിസോഴ്സസ് ആണ് മലബാർ വെരുകി വംശനാശം സംഭവിച്ചുവെന്നു ഔദ്യോഗികമായി പ്രഖ്യാപിക്കേണ്ടത്.

മലബാർ വെരുകിനെ കണ്ടെത്താൻ കഴിയാതെ കനത്ത നഷ്ടമാണെന്നാണ്

ശാസ്ത്രജ്ഞരുടെ നിലപാട്. കന്യാകുമാരി മുതൽ കർണാടകത്തിലെ ചോന്നാമ്പർ വരെ മലബാർ വെരുകിനെ കണ്ടെത്തി പഴയ രേഖകളുണ്ട്. അനാദാർഷ്ട്യ തലത്തിൽ ഈ വെരുകിന്റെ സരക്ഷണത്തിന് വളരെയധികം പ്രയാസം കൽപ്പിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. കേരളത്തിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ കാണുന്ന വെരുകി പൂവെടുക്കാണെന്നു ഡോ. ജെയ്സൻ പറഞ്ഞു. പൂവെരുകി നേക്കാളും മലബാർ വെരുകിൻ വലിപ്പം കൂടുതലാണ്.

പൂവെരുകിന് പുറേണ വളർച്ചയെത്തുമ്പോൾ ജാലോപ്പം മുതൽ മൂന്നു വരെ മാത്രമാകുമ്പോൾ ജാലോപ്പിന് ആറു മുതൽ എട്ടു കിലോഗ്രാം വരെ ഭാരമുണ്ടാകാറുണ്ട്. 45 മുതൽ 60 സെന്റിമീറ്റർ വരെ മാത്രം നീളമാണ് പൂവെരുകിനുള്ളത്. അതേസമയം ജാലോപ്പിന് വാലടക്കം 19 മുതൽ 125 സെന്റിമീറ്റർ വരെ നീളമുണ്ട്.

മലബാർ വെരുകിനെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള വിവരങ്ങൾ മാത്രമാണ് കെ.എഫ്.ആർ.ഐക്സിയിലെ കൈവശമുള്ളത്. ജാലോപ്പിന്റെ പോലോടോ പോലുമില്ലെന്നും വിവരങ്ങളുടെ അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ തയ്യാറാക്കിയ രേഖാപിത്രം മാത്രമുള്ളതുവെന്നും ഡോ. ജെയ്സൻ പറഞ്ഞു.

ചാലിനിമുള്ള ശരീരത്തിൽ കറുത്ത പുളുക്കൾ വരി വരിയായിട്ടുള്ള ജാലോപ്പിന്റെ വാലിന്റെ അടിഭാഗത്തായി കറുപ്പിലും വെളുപ്പിലുമായി അഞ്ചു വിതിയുള്ള വളയങ്ങളുണ്ടാകും. മുതുകിൽ കൂടി പോകുന്ന തും വാലു വരെയുള്ളതുമായ കറുത്ത കട്ടികൂടിയ റോമങ്ങളാണ് പൂവെരുകിയിന്നും ഇതിനുള്ള വ്യത്യാസം.

ജാലോപ്പിന് ഭ്രമിച്ചെത്തുന്നിന് നിഷ്കരികുന്മേൽ ശാസ്ത്ര ലോകത്തിന് ഇതിനേയ്ക്കു അതിന്റെ ജീവതരീതിയേയും കുറിച്ചു നേരിയ ധാരണകൾ മാത്രമേയുള്ളൂ. വടക്കൻ കേരളത്തിലെ കശുമാവിൻ തോപ്പുകളിലും കുറ്റിക്കാടുകളിനിറഞ്ഞ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലുമാണ് ജാലോപ്പിനെ കണ്ടുവന്നിരുന്നതെ.

ഈ തരീതി കർമ്മനിരത്താകുന്ന ജാലോപ്പിന് ഉദിക്കുന്നതോടെ കുറ്റിക്കാടുകളിലേക്കും തോപ്പുകളിലേക്കും മറയും. മരത്തിൽ കയറുന്നതായി അനുഭവപ്പെട്ടില്ലെങ്കിലും ചെറു ജീവികൾ, മറ്റു ജീവികളുടെ മുട്ടപ്പുണി വായാണ് ജാലോപ്പിന്റെ പ്രധാന ഭക്ഷണമാണെന്നു ഡോ. ജെയ്സൻ വിശദീകരിച്ചു. മാംസഭക്ഷണ ജാലോപ്പു

കളെ പോലെയാണ് ഇര പിടിക്കുന്നതെങ്കിലും കർണാടകത്തിലെ ഉത്തര കാനഡ മുതൽ കന്യാകുമാരി വരെയും വയനാട്ടിലും ജാലോപ്പിന് പണ്ടുകാലങ്ങളിൽ കാണപ്പെട്ടിരുന്നു.

മലബാറിന്റെ തീരങ്ങളിൽ കണ്ടുവന്നിരുന്ന കശുമാവിൻ തോപ്പുകളുടെ നാശം ജാലോപ്പിന്റെ വംശനാശത്തിന് കാരണമായ ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിക്കപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ട്. ആവാസവ്യവസ്ഥക്ക് കോടം തട്ടിയതാണ് അവ ഇല്ലാതാകാൻ കാരണമെന്നാണ് ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിക്കപ്പെട്ടിരുന്നു.

കാടുകളിൽ ഇവ വസിക്കാറില്ലെങ്കിലും ഇവയെക്കുറിച്ചു അന്വേഷണം വന്നതിലും നടത്തിയിരുന്നു.

അത്യന്തം പരിതാപകരമായ നിലയിൽ വംശനാശഭീഷണി നേരിടുന്ന മലബാർ വെരുകിനെ കേരളത്തിൽ കണ്ടെത്തി അവയുടെ സരക്ഷണം ഉറപ്പുവരുത്തുക എന്ന ഉദ്ദേശ്യത്തോടെ പ്രകൃതി സമ്പന്നി കളടക്കമുള്ളവരുടെ സഹകരണത്തോടെ അന്വേഷണവും പഠനവും നടത്തിയവർ ഏറെ വിഷമത്തോടെയാണ് ജാലോപ്പിനെ പിടികിട്ടാപ്പുള്ളിയായി പ്രഖ്യാപിച്ച റിപ്പോർട്ട് തയ്യാറാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നത്.

ഇവൻ ഇനി പിടികിട്ടാപ്പുള്ളി

ഇവൻ ഇനി പിടികിട്ടാപ്പുള്ളി

(18-ാം പേജ് തുടർച്ച)

എസ്.കെ. സുബ്ബരത്ന

കുറേപ്പേർ പലിശയ്ക്കിടക്കാലം കഴിഞ്ഞുവെന്ന വെളിപ്പെടുത്തിയപ്പോൾ 'ഓരോ വർഷം' എന്നറിയപ്പെടുന്ന 'ഓരോ വർഷം' (ഗാന്ധിജി) മുഖേനയാണ്. അപ്രത്യക്ഷമായി. മേമ്പാട് വെളിപ്പെടുത്തിയപ്പോൾ 'ഓരോ വർഷം' (ഗാന്ധിജി) മുഖേനയാണ്. അപ്രത്യക്ഷമായി. മേമ്പാട് വെളിപ്പെടുത്തിയപ്പോൾ 'ഓരോ വർഷം' (ഗാന്ധിജി) മുഖേനയാണ്. അപ്രത്യക്ഷമായി.

കാലത്തിൽ ഇതിൽ വെളിപ്പെടുത്തിയപ്പോൾ 'ഓരോ വർഷം' (ഗാന്ധിജി) മുഖേനയാണ്. അപ്രത്യക്ഷമായി. മേമ്പാട് വെളിപ്പെടുത്തിയപ്പോൾ 'ഓരോ വർഷം' (ഗാന്ധിജി) മുഖേനയാണ്. അപ്രത്യക്ഷമായി.



മേമ്പാട് വെളിപ്പെടുത്തിയപ്പോൾ 'ഓരോ വർഷം' (ഗാന്ധിജി) മുഖേനയാണ്.

മേമ്പാട് വെളിപ്പെടുത്തിയപ്പോൾ 'ഓരോ വർഷം' (ഗാന്ധിജി) മുഖേനയാണ്. അപ്രത്യക്ഷമായി. മേമ്പാട് വെളിപ്പെടുത്തിയപ്പോൾ 'ഓരോ വർഷം' (ഗാന്ധിജി) മുഖേനയാണ്. അപ്രത്യക്ഷമായി.

രണ്ടാമത്ത് എല്ലാ വർഷം വരെ ഓരോ വർഷം 45 മുതൽ 100 വരെ നീളമാണ് പുറംതൊഴുതിപ്പുള്ളി. അറബിൻ്റെ വലുപ്പം 100 മുതൽ 125 സെന്റിമീറ്റർ വരെ നീളമുണ്ടാകും.

കന്യാകുമാരി മുതൽ കർണാടകത്തിലെ ഗോന്ദാനൂർ വരെയാണിത് വെളിപ്പെടുത്തിയപ്പോൾ 'ഓരോ വർഷം' (ഗാന്ധിജി) മുഖേനയാണ്. അപ്രത്യക്ഷമായി.

പലപ്പോൾ പെരുന്തിവികൾ, മുട്ടു നീവകളുടെ മുട്ടു മുട്ടി വെളിപ്പെടുത്തിയപ്പോൾ 'ഓരോ വർഷം' (ഗാന്ധിജി) മുഖേനയാണ്. അപ്രത്യക്ഷമായി.

(18-ാം പേജ് 15)

Appendix VII. Study generated much interest among press and local people (Rashtra Deepika)

'Veruku' becomes extinct

By RAJESH RAVI

Kochi, March 1: The official search for the Malabar Civet (*Viverra Civettina*) is over and the animal known as 'Veruku' is extinct. A belated but eighteen-month-long search by the Peechi-based Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI) did not yield any result.

Endemic to the Western Ghats, the mammal is the first from the endangered list to become extinct. An earlier search led by the Wild Life Institute of India also did not produce any results. Experts believe that the extinction of a species permanently closes the door to exploring the ecological history of the landscape.

Many sightings were reported from across the state



in response to the search but all of them turned out to be false. E.A. Jayson of KFRI told 'Express'. A close cousin of the Toddy Cat (Marappatti) and Small Indian Civet (Pooveruku), Veruku was found mostly in the Malabar coast in the shrubs and cashew plantations. The last recorded sighting of the animal is in

1987 when a hunter was caught in Nilambur with two skins. Interestingly, there are no photos of the animal and an illustration done by a British scientist in 1890 was the lone guide in the search.

The animal has not been studied either and very little academic material is available on the subject. Jayson

says that indiscreet hunting and habitat loss may have been the cause for the animal's disappearance. The nocturnal animal was large as a dog and preyed on fowls and eggs of other animals. In Malabar the animal is known as 'Javed'.

The distinctive feature of the animal was its grey colour and the black dots that stretch from one end of the body to the other. Its tail has four rings in black and white and the weight of the animal is approximately between 6 to 8 kg.

K.M. Jayahari of the World Wildlife Fund says that the status monitoring of the endemic species of the Western Ghats is poor or it is not being done properly. "There are problems in the survey methodologies. Even the annual census

surveys are not able to produce absolute and reliable data," he said.

He added that there were no studies or status survey for Day's Shrew, Nilgiri Marten, Jungle Stripped Squirrel, Ranjini Rat and Bonhote's Mouse. When one species becomes extinct it creates an irreparable vacuum in the food web of the ecosystem.

This can lead to the extinction of many plants or other animals which depend on the ecosystem service of this particular species. "Most importantly endemism is a phenomenon behind which several secrets of ecological history exist. There should be a system to monitor the population dynamics of species to avoid this sort of crisis," Jayahari said.

Appendix VIII. Study generated much interest among press and local people (Indian Express)