



Population Studies of *Herpestes edwardsii* in Ajmer Rajasthan.
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Abstract

Indian Mongoose *Herpestes edwardsii* (Herpestidae : Carnivora; Mammalia) are the best known inhabitants of urban and rural ecosystem. (Sinclair et. Al. 2006). And considered as keystone species In the parts of the world. The number is decreasing at very fast rate. The species in urban areas is of particular Concern as urban areas are developing at very fast rate. Human population is also increasing at a very fast rate and Conservation of mammals is ignored. Indian mongoose belong to class Mammalia, order Carnivora and family Herpestidae. Acquainted species ubiquitously living in and around human habitation.(Sharma2009, Choudhary et.al. 2011.). They feed on invertebrates and also check the population of invertebrates. Indian mongoose is native to Bhutan, Bahrain, Afghanistan, India, Iran (Karani et.al.) Indian mongoose were abundant in Ajmer in earlier decades but now there population is declining alarmingly. Scientists need to understand threats for mammalian population. The present paper deals with number of species present in Ajmer.

Study Area

Ajmer is located in the center of Rajasthan (INDIA) between 25° 38" and 26° 58" north Latitude and 73° 54" and 75° 22" east longitude covering a geographical area of about 8481sq km hemmed in all sides by Aravalli hills. About 7 miles from the city is Pushkar lake created by the touch of lord Brahma. The Dargah of khawaja Moinuddin chisti is holiest shrine next to Mecca in the world. Ajmer has hot dry summer and cold bracing winter. The winter extends from November to February and summer extends from March to June followed by rainy season till mid September. The temperature varies from 2° c in winter and 49° c in summer. The normal annual rainfall is 527.3mm.

Materials and Methods

The identified ecological niches were regularly monitored during daytime in the month of march April may and June. The sp were monitored by direct sighting method. The study was carried out during 2016 -2017.

Observations and Results

Observation made on the number of *Herpestes edwardsii* different locations of Ajmer is in

fig 1. During study period highest number was recorded in M.D.S.U. area..

S.No.	Location	No. recorded.
1.	M.D.S.U. area	6.
2.	Panchsheel area	5.
3	Kesar ganj	4.
4.	Madar gate	0.
5.	Chandravardai area	4.
6.	Parbatpura	3.
7.	Naka Madar area	4.

Small mammals form important part of forest. Mongoose has become threatened due to Human activities. Schedule II part II of WPA 1972 IUCN Red list status of mongoose is Threatened. Maximum number of animals was recorded in outskirts of Ajmer. In the center of the city no animals were recorded due to Anthropological activities construction of houses. Scientist based monitoring programme should be carried out to conserve small

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