

# 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. Aquainted 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, Afganistan, 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 mamalian population. The present paper deals with number of species present in Ajmer.

## 1. Introduction

Indian Mongoose *Herpestes edwardsii* (Herpestidae : Carnivora; Mammalia) are the best known inhabitants of urban and rural ecosystem. (Sinclair et. Al. 2006). Indian mongoose belong to class Mammalia, order carnivora and family Herpestidae. Aquainted species ubiquitously living in and around human habitation. (Sharma 2009, Choudhary

et.al. 2011.). They are the top predators of food chain. They feed on invertebrates and also check the population of invertebrates. The other mammal species living around human habitation squirrel , number is increasing because it has adapted live with human. Mongoose is not increasing in number so fast rate because of shy nature and not freely living with humans as squirrel.



Image 1: *Herpestes*

## 2. Literature Review

Distribution of Mongoose in some locations of India (Pocock 1939, 1941, Johnsingh 1986; Tehsin & Chawra 1994 ; Yogananda 1999; Nameer et.al. 2001; sharma 2003;Kumara 2007; Neginhal 2008, Pillay 2009, Sharma 2009, Gupta 2011, Maurya et.al. 2011, Rajpurohit et.al. 2011, Murali 2012, Babu 2013, Kumara et.al. 2014, David et.al. 2015).

## 3. Significance of the study

The Mongoose were present in plenty number in earlier years but the population is declining at very fast rate in Ajmer. So a study was conducted to know the number of mongoose in Ajmer region.

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#### 4. 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.

#### 5. Materials and Methods

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

- 1) M.D.S.U. area Ajmer
- 2) Panchsheel area Ajmer
- 3) Madar gate area Ajmer
- 4) Chandravadai Ajmer and
- 5) Parbatpura Ajmer

Mongoose prefer degraded forest, foothills of Aravallis, and open scrub.

#### 6. Observations and Results

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

**Table 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	5.
2.	Panchsheel area	4.
3	Kesar ganj	2.
4.	Madar gate	0.
5.	Chandravadai 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 mammals. Mining and cutting of Aravallis and removal of forest, should be stopped because these are natural habitat of Mongoose.

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