

Briefly

(Compiled by Anwaruddin Choudhury)

Père David's macaque discovered in India

Père David's macaque *Macaca thibetana* A. Milne-Edwards, 1870 is a large monkey inhabiting the hilly and mountainous terrain of east-central China. It is also known as the Chinese stump-tailed macaque and Tibetan macaque.

During a field survey in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh in north-eastern India in November, 1997 Dr Anwaruddin Choudhury came across a band (>20) of this macaque and could take two photographs (see second cover). This is not only a significant addition to the faunal wealth of the country but has also extended the range of this macaque by about 1000 km. The elevation of the place was about 2500m asl. The habitat where these macaques were observed was of temperate broadleaf forest.



Sumatran rhinoceros rediscovered in India

The historic distribution of the Sumatran rhinoceros *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis* stretched from the foothills of the eastern Himalaya in Bhutan and north-eastern India to Indonesia. The species was believed to have become extinct from the Indian sub-continent in the early part of this century.

The first evidence of occasional presence of stray rhinos came to light when in 1967 one was killed near Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh. After that there was no report from anywhere in the subcontinent till more evidences were found in Assam, Manipur and Nagaland. The recorded areas are Punikhal of Sonai Reserved Forest, Cachar district, Assam (sighted by locals in 1967), Anko Range in Ukhrul district, Manipur (sighted by locals in early 1990s and one killed in 1970s), and Saramati in Tuensang district, Nagaland (sighted by locals in 1967-68 and 1994). Moreover, many of the local tribals in those areas are familiar with 'two-horned hairy' rhinos.

These records suggest that the Sumatran rhinoceros, a critically endangered species may still straggle within Indian limits, especially near the Indo-Myanmarese border area in Manipur and Nagaland (source: Choudhury, A.U. 1997. The status of the Sumatran rhinoceros in north - eastern India. *Oryx*, 31: 151-152).