

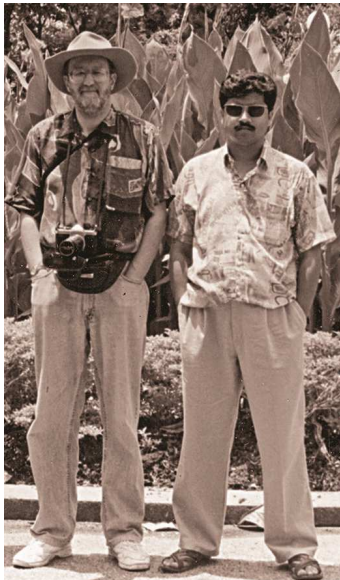
OBITUARIES by ANWARUDDIN CHOUDHURY

Colin Peter Groves

(24 June 1942, England–30 November 2017). He was a renowned authority, especially on taxonomy of mammals. A British-Australian biologist and anthropologist, Groves was Professor of Biological Anthropology at the Australian National University in Canberra, Australia.

Groves had a Bachelor of Science from University College, London in 1963, and a Doctor of Philosophy from the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine in 1966. He was a Teaching Fellow at the Universities of California (Berkeley), and Cambridge, and Queen Elizabeth College. Groves joined the Australian National University in 1973 and became a full Professor in 2000 and then remained Emeritus Professor until his death.

His research included human evolution, primates, mammalian taxonomy, skeletal analysis, biological anthropology, ethnobiology, cryptozoology, and biogeography. Among his many publications, *Primate Taxonomy*, which was published by the Smithsonian Institution Press in 2001 was noteworthy. He also suggested that the



With Prof. Colin Groves (left) at Bangkok zoo, 1995.

swamp deer found in Assam can be treated as a separate subspecies *ranjitsinhi*.

My introduction to late Groves was quite old, probably early 1980s. Owing to my interest in primates I went through works on hoolocks and then correspondence started, which continued till 2016–17. The last correspondence was on receipt of my book entitled *Mammals of India: a systematic & cartographic review* for which he was kind enough to write the foreword.

Groves was very positive and as a reviewer he was bold. When I described a new species of giant flying squirrel *Petaurista mechukaensis* on the basis of a single specimen, he was one of the reviewers and strongly opined that once it is clear as a distinct taxon it should be published.

I met Groves only once but for quite a few days in Thailand in 1995. We were attending a workshop on Asian wild cattle at Khao Khiew Open Zoo. He was very happy to see me as we were in touch for quite long. We had very fruitful discussion and he suggested lot of things to me. One was how to measure horns and he made a drawing for me. We also travelled together to and from Bangkok where we visited Dusit zoo.

He was a great support to me and my works and I gratefully acknowledge that. His works would continue to inspire and guide innumerable researchers and conservationists across the globe.

Peter Jackson

(27 January 1926–8 December 2016). He was a renowned tiger conservationist. Jackson was also a journalist, photographer and author. He was the Chairman of the IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group between 1983 and 2000, and subsequently became chairman emeritus.

Jackson was the chief correspondent for the Reuters (India bureau) in 1954–1960 and 1962–1970. During his stay in India he developed keen interest on tigers. Jackson co-authored and co-edited several publications.

It was in late 1990s that I came into contact