

***Ratufa macroura* (Pennant)**
(Family: Sciuridae)

Grizzled Giant Squirrel

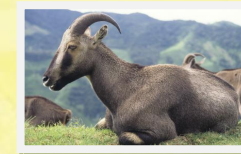
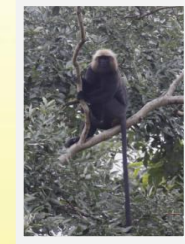
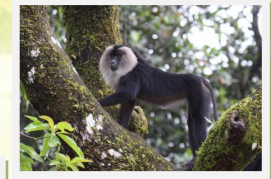


This is a large species of squirrel inhabiting the riverine, evergreen and deciduous forests of Western Ghats and Sri Lanka.

The animal is characterized by its coat colour which is brownish grey, grizzled with white on upper parts of the body and tail. Crown of the head, shoulders and toes are blackish brown. Ventral side including chin and neck and inner side of limbs are white or yellowish white. They build huge globular nests lined with tender leaves and twigs. They feed on fruits, leaves, nuts, insects etc. The species is diurnal and highly arboreal, seldom descending to the ground. In India it is restricted to the forests of Srivilliputhur in Tamil Nadu, Kaveri valley in Karnataka and Chinnar WLS in Kerala. The animal is placed in Schedule I of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and categorised as 'Near Threatened' in IUCN, Red list of Threatened Species, 2008.

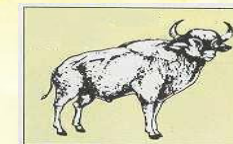


Rare & Endemic
MAMMALS



GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION

YEAR-2011



SOUTHERN REGIONAL CENTRE

Zoological Survey of India

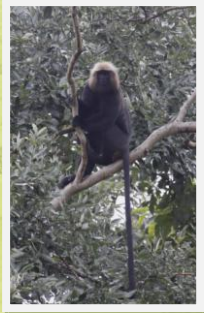
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***Trachypithecus johnii* Fischer**
(Family: Cercopithecidae)

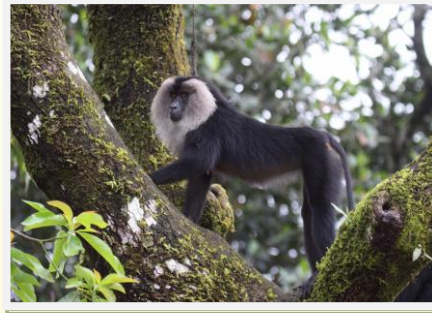
Nilgiri Langur.



Nilgiri langur or the black leaf monkey is endemic to the rainforests of the Western Ghats. These truly arboreal forms often exploit the maximum resources available within its home range for their food. Its slim body, glossy black fur, golden hair on head and a fairly long tail are quite distinctive. The females have a white patch on the inside of the thighs. They live in troops of 3-25 individuals. They feed on fruits, tender shoots and leaves. Habitat destruction and hunting for fur and meat and have decreased the number of this animal drastically. The species is protected under Schedule I of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and is listed under the 'Vulnerable' category in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, 2008.

***Macaca silenus* (Linnaeus)**
(Family: Cercopithecidae)

Lion-tailed Macaque



One of the rarest and globally threatened primates. Easily distinguishable by the mane of brownish grey hairs around the face and a short tail which is tufted towards the tip as that of a lion. They are seen in dense evergreen and semi evergreen forests at an altitude of 600-1300m. Being highly arboreal, they spend most of their time in the upper canopy. They are endemic to the Western Ghats. Their range has become increasingly fragmented by the spread of agriculture, construction of water reservoirs for irrigation and power generation, and human settlements. The species is protected under Schedule I of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and is listed under the 'Endangered' category in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, 2008.

The species received the focal point of attention during the Peoples' agitation against commissioning of the Silent Valley Hydroelectric Project in 1970s due to the fact that their largest natural population thrives in Silent valley.

***Nilgiritragus hylocrius* Ropiquet**
& Hassanin

(Family: Bovidae)

Nilgiri Tahr



This endemic and endangered ugulatae of the Western Ghats is the largest of the three tahr species of the world. Nilgiri Tahrs are stocky goats seen in open montane grasslands at high elevations (1220-2600m), enjoying a temperate climate.

Coat colour is dark brown or almost black. Adult males have a distinctive silvery saddle patch on the loins. Both sexes have horns. They live in herds of 5-50 individuals and feed mainly on grasses and herbs. They are highly adapted to climb up and down the steep hill slopes. The largest population is seen at Eravikulam National Park, in Idukki district of Kerala. Main threats are habitat loss/degradation and poaching. The species is protected under Schedule I of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and is listed under the 'Endangered' category in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, 2008.