

Striped Hyaena *Hyaena hyaena* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Carnivora: Hyaenidae) new reports in Nandhaur Valley, Terai Arc Landscape, Uttarakhand, India

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Abstract— *Striped Hyaena Hyaena hyaena* Linnaeus, 1758 species is one of the largest carnivores found in Indian Sub-continent reported for first time in the Nandhaur Valley in Terai Arc Landscape, Uttarakhand, India. Diagnosis and photograph of the species is provided.

Keywords— *Striped Hyaena, Nandhaur Valley, Terai Arc Landscape, India, New record.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) of Uttarakhand, India has most well-known wildlife such as tigers, elephants and rhinos along with a large variety of other rare, endangered and endemic wildlife species. Nandhaur Valley is a favorable site to attempt a revival of large mammal populations (Johnsingh and Pandav 2008). The Nandhaur river valley, lying at the core of this landscape, receives mention in several accounts for its plentiful game and fish (Corbett 1944; Corbett 1954). The Striped Hyaena *Hyaena hyaena* Linnaeus, 1758 is one of the largest carnivores in India (Sharma et al 2011) and found in Africa, Middle East and Indian sub-continent (Ahmad et al 2012) especially in semi-arid landscape (Sharma et al 2011; Singh et al 2010; Alam and Khan 2015) of India and prefers rocky and open landscapes (Mills and Hofer 1998). The Striped Hyaena is regarded rare and kept under schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act-1972 and documented as a near-threatened species by International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), due to the habitat destruction their compromised population size shrinking throughout their distribution range (Arumugam et al 2008) and need of complete protection for long term survival. In the present study, we report the Striped Hyaena *Hyaena hyaena* for the first time in Nandhaur Valley in Terai Arc Landscape, Uttarakhand, India.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted to count the tiger and its associated species in the three territorial forest divisions-

Haldwani, Terai East and Champawat, in Terai Arc Landscape (Figure 1), Uttarakhand, India through camera trap method from October 2011 to April 2012. Diagnosis and a photograph of the species have been provided. The photographic specimen submitted to Uttarakhand Forest Department and WWF-India Secretariat for record.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Striped Hyaena *Hyaena hyaena* was recorded during the study of tiger and its associated species through camera trapping from October 2011 to April 2012 in Nandhaur Valley including three territorial forest divisions, Haldwani, Terai East and Champawat, in Terai Arc Landscape, Uttarakhand, India. Striped Hyaena *Hyaena hyaena* was captured on 19 December 2011 at 4.22 AM in one camera (Figure 2) and on 19 December 2011 at 4.36 AM in another camera (Figure 3). The sightings were located on 29° 06'18.5"N 79°43'31.2"E (Figure 4) in the Haldwani-Tanakpur forest road (Figure 5). The sightings were also confirmed individually by peoples from neighboring villages by showing photographs. As reported by local people, this species was previously never been sighted in the entire range of Uttarakhand and also never been recorded earlier in this landscape. The species was captured is a rocky and edge of mixed habitat near the river at an altitude of 276msl. The mixed habitat was dominated by *Shorea robusta*, *Acacia catechu*, *Holoptelea integrifolia*, *Holarrhena antidysenterica*, *Aegle marmelos*, *Mallotus philippensis* and *Grewia oppositifolia* and the bushes are *Lantana camara* and *Murraya koenigii*.

IV. CONCLUSION

The Striped Hyaena *Hyaena hyaena* has been considered as a typical scavenger, existing around human settlements and feeding of carcasses of animals and also sometimes feeds on fruits, insects and reptiles (Mills and Hofer 1998, Kruk 1976). The detail study of status and ecology of Striped

Hyaena in entire Uttarakhand is needed in urgent for the conservation of the species in this landscape.

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FIGURES



(Source: WWF-India)

Fig.1: Map showing Terai Arc Landscape, India



Fig.2: Striped Hyaena photo in Camera Trap at 4:22 AM



Fig.3: Striped Hyena photo in Camera Trap at 4:36 AM



Fig.4: Camera traps location of Striped Hyena in the study area.



Fig.5: Striped Hyena habitat in the study area.