

A brief report on biodiversity studies carried out at DAE campus Kalpakkam.

The entire DAE campus of 3000 acres, at Kalpakkam was divided into four representative plots comprising of different landscapes namely; (1) undisturbed area with dense vegetation, (2) building area, (3) water bodies with riparian cover and (4) sandy area with meager vegetation for inventorying of Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians and butterflies. For birds, early morning surveys were made whereas for mammals evening and night surveys were followed. Midday sampling was followed for butterflies and other animals. Each plot was surveyed twice in a week. This stratified survey fetched major component of biological diversity available in the campus. Methodology followed was audiovisual.

The diversity of butterflies is remarkable. Twenty-two butterfly species have been encountered so far. Wide diversity was found among Frogs, toads, lizards and snakes. Five species of frogs, one species of toad, nine species of lizards (*Calotus versicolor* is abundant followed by common skink) and five species of snakes have been encountered during the last 10 months. Lizards are more diverse than snakes. Among snakes common Bronzed back and Green Vine Snake were predominant. Seventy species of birds have been recorded during the survey period. Black crowned night heron, Common house crow, Great cormorant, Oriental white ibis, Painted stork, Cattle egret, Common mynah are more common. Sixteen species of mammals were encountered during the survey. Wild cattle, Jackal, Jungle cat, Toddy cat, Crested porcupine and Indian civet are the major wildlife found. Presence of Indian civet and Crested porcupine, which are elusive animals and are diminishing from wild, is an indication of less human intervention in this milieu. Totally 128 species of animals, birds and reptiles have been identified during the survey and it highlighted the potential of biodiversity in the campus.

(Baldev Raj & K K Satpathy)

Faunal Diversity of DAE Campus-Kalpakkam



Wet-land birds at WIP lake



Garganey-winter visitor

Ash wood-swallow



Northern Shoveller-

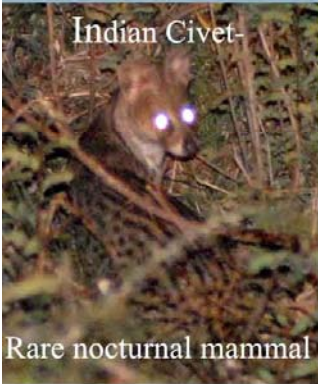


Visitor from Europe

Sunbird



Indian Civet



Rare nocturnal mammal

Golden Jackal



Indian Crested Porcupine

Tree Frog - *Polypedates maculatus*



Banded kukri-*Oligodon arnensis*



FAUNA OF DAE CAMPUS- KALPAKKAM

Painted stork



Grey Mongoose



Indian small civet



Indian Crested Porcupine



Danaid eggfly



Common Tree Frog



Banded kukri



Common Pochard



Blue pansy



Common crow

