

SUCCESSFUL CAPTIVE BREEDING OF STUMPTAILED MACAQUE IN SRI VENKATESWARA ZOOLOGICAL PARK, TIRUPATI (ANDHRA PRADESH)

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Introduction

The Stumptailed Macaque (*Macaca speciosa*) is restricted to Assam hill forests only in India. It is a Schedule-II animal. The tail of Stumptailed Macaque is scarcely 2.5 cm long. The animal is thick set in build, with long and abundant hair and hair is slightly parted in the middle. Shoulder is wavy and middle of the back is parted. Large area of the seat is bare, brilliant red or purple patches are seen on the face, on the genital region and in posterior region. Head and body is dark brown, young individuals are paler in colour.

Habits

The Stumptailed Macaque is more at home on the ground than upon the trees contrary to the other Macaques which are more arboreal in nature. They eat chiefly young leaves, fruits, buds and occasionally small prey. Where opportunity offers, they can leave the forest to raid fields and gardens for maize, sugarcane, rice papayas and mangoes.

Breeding Activities

The sex life of the Stumptailed Macaque seems to have a special social significance, because mating is less restricted to the period of female fertility than in other primates. Mating takes place throughout

the year giving a gap of 2 months after delivery and participate even after its conception. After ejaculation, the male is unable to detach himself from the female immediately, much as in canines. This is due to a swelling at the entrance to the vagina. The female will sit "tight" on the male's lap, the male will hold the female for sometime. Both mother and father show affection to the baby, but father does not share his food with baby. But the mother takes much care of the young ones. When it gives a call, the male also will come to rescue the baby. There is a case when the mother didn't leave the dead body of her baby even 5 days after death.

Enclosure for Stumptailed Macaque

The enclosure for Stumptailed Macaque is constructed with an island area of about 275 m². This has a top width of 5 m. and a depth of 2.3 m and designed as a wet moat. About 60 cm water level has to be maintained. 60 cm high Parapet wall is constructed above ground. Hedge plants are raised in between the railing and moat wall.

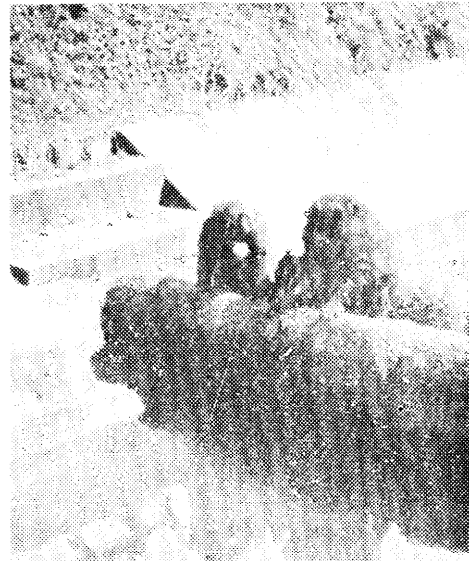
Night house is provided with four cages of 1.2 m x 1.65 m x 1.50 m size each. Night house is camouflaged with rockery. Drainage channel is provided for easy draining of daily cleaning water.

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Fig. 1

One-day old baby Stumptailed Macaque with its mother and father

Fig. 2

Baby Stumptailed Macaque feeling security with its mother and father

Fig. 3

Mischievous baby Stumptailed Macaque playing in the enclosure leaving parents.

Fig. 4

Mother grooming the baby Stumptailed Macaque

Prophylactic Measures

Each animal is provided with bread - 100 g, Vegetables - 75 g, Bananas - 250 g, Vegetable leaf - 50 g, Bengalgram - 100 g and fruits - 210 g in a day. The night house is cleaned daily with Steridor or Aciphor liquid. The moat is disinfected monthly in all the months except twice in a month in rainy season with bleaching powder. Butox is sprayed monthly around the night house and around the moat for pest control. Faecal samples are examined monthly for detection of parasites. Deworming is done once in three months.

Successful Breeding

One male and one female were brought from the Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad in the year 1993. They have given birth to a baby on 26.8.93. After nearly one year the baby died under the releasing gate. On 4.8.94 the male macaque lifted the gate and it was holding the gate. At that time the baby was playing near the gate. When the baby was below the gate the male macaque suddenly left the gate. The baby was crushed under the gate.

Second time one more baby was born in 1994. When the baby was one week old, it has tried to cross the cage bars to enter into another cage but only its head has gone to the other side and its body could not pass through the bars as the gap between the bars is less. The mother pulled the baby from the other side of the cage holding its head instead of pulling back the baby. As a result of this, the baby was squeezed in between the bars and died.

With the experience of these incidents, the following steps were taken to avoid

further deaths :

1. Gap between releasing gate and wall above the gate was reduced.
2. Opening of the releasing gate throughout, till the baby crosses juvenile stage.
3. Knitting of chain link mesh to the sides of central cage to prevent the baby crossing the cage bars.
4. Observing the baby and the gate position daily by the Animal Keeper, Animal Watchman and Zoo Sargeant.

Again one baby was born on 20.6.1995. By taking the above steps the baby is growing well and it is in good health. The baby is now becoming dark in colour. The baby has successfully completed one year now in the Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park, Tirupati.

Conclusion

Close supervision of the baby, narrowing the gap between gates and walls, opening of the releasing gate all the time and restricting the movement of the baby through the bars of the night cage made the Stumptailed Macaque baby survive. With these precautions and careful observations, the female Stumptailed Macaque which is pregnant now may deliver another baby Stumptailed Macaque which may successfully grow into an adult taking their family size to 4 from the present family size of 3. The Sri Venkateswara Zoological Park, Tirupati is not enforcing family planning for its animal, the family size of these Stumptailed Macaques may grow into a viable population from the parent stock of one male and one female.

SUMMARY

Breeding activities of Stumptailed Macaque are discussed. The reasons for their mortality and remedial measures and steps taken for their successful captive breeding are also discussed.

श्री वेंकटेश्वर प्राणि उद्यान में ढूँढ पुच्छ कपियों के सफल बन्दी प्रजनन

एस०वी० कुमार व पी०एस० राधबह्या

सारांश

ढूँढ पुच्छ कपियों के प्रजनन गतिविधियों का विवेचन किया गया है । मृत्यु दर कारण तथा प्रतिविधि परिणाम व उनके बन्दी अवस्था में किये गये सफल प्रजनन पदक्षेप का भी विवेचन किया गया है ।
