

Current status of population and demography of Nicobar crab-eating macaque (*Macaca fascicularis umbrosa*) in the Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India

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(Accepted December 12, 2014)

ABSTRACT

A comprehensive population study of Nicobar-crab eating macaque (*Macaca fascicularis umbrosa* Miller, 1902) was conducted during October 2011 to September 2013, in the Great Nicobar Island. It is estimated that 882 individuals in 29 troops with the group size varied from 18 to 46 individuals (mean \pm SD = 30.41 ± 6.91). The abundance of monkey group per km is about 0.23 corresponding with 6.9 individuals per km. The survival rate was high; it was estimated 0.99/individual/year with the mean growth rate of 1.55/individual/year. The mean group size of macaque at Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve (GNBR) (mean \pm SD = 28.92 ± 6.7) varied from macaque groups found in residential areas (mean \pm SD = 31.62 ± 7). The population was increased during the period of study. The female-infant ratio was increased, while male ratio was slightly decreased in residential groups rather than groups observed in protected areas.

Key words: Macaque, population size, sex ratio, Great Nicobar Island.