

An inventory on herpetofauna with emphasis on conservation from Gingee Hills, Eastern-Ghats, Southern India

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ABSTRACT

The report contributes to the community structure of the amphibians and reptiles and provides preliminary information on species diversity and their microhabitat association in Gingee hills. Gingee hills are located in Southern Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu and lying between 12°14' N, 79°23' E. The forest habitats are composed of mixed dry deciduous forest and thorn scrub forest. A detailed herpetofauna survey was conducted from December 2015 to March 2016. Data collection were carried out by using Time Constrained Visual Encounter Survey method. Of 120 man hours harbors 56 species of herpetofauna, besides 15 species of amphibians belonging to 10 genera and 41 species of reptiles belonging to 30 genera were recorded, of which 21 species were ophidians (55%) and 20 species of lizards (45%). The microclimatic analysis of amphibian the temperature varied with 29.4°C ± 3.57°C and 30.8°C ± 2.73°C for reptiles. The amphibian humidity varied with 66.1±14.01% and 61.1 ± 10.21% for reptiles. The niche overlap index shows that many amphibian and reptiles overlapping between each other with maximum value of 0.98. This report indicated that the area is notably large in size of the richness of amphibians and reptiles.

Key words: Amphibians, Reptiles, Diversity, Temperature, Humidity, Niche Overlap