

# First Record of Indian Giant Squirrel (*Petaurista philipensis*) in Korba (C.G)

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## Abstract

In India Gaint Squirrel is a globally least concern species but has been assessed as near threatened species in South Asia (Watson et al.2008; Molur et, al. 2005). In general this species is found in the tropical and subtropical dry deciduous and semi evergreen to evergreen forest (Molur et, al.2005). Indian flying squirrel is a species of rodent belong to sciuridae family. It is a gliding nocturnal mammal. 15 Genera and 43 species worldwide and total 11 species reported in India. This species is classified under IUCN Red Data Book and Red List of Threatened species 2023 as a Least Concern. Some Previous studies show that in India anthropological activities, habitat destruction and hunting are the main cause of decline of this species.

## **Introduction**

The giant flying squirrel is a least concern animal. This species of flying squirrels are generally found in the Himalayan and Northeast regions in India. The gliding behaviour of this species are generally seems as flying. The membrane which connects both the fore limb and hind limb is used by the squirrel for gliding. The abundance of species is directly associated with degradation of forest, hunting and captive practices. Some time apart from fragmentation, etheno-medical uses, forest fires and consumption as a bush meat are potent threats for flying squirrel. Due to lack of studies and awareness flying squirrel faces unrecognised status.

Detail study of habitat preference and conservation measures help in conservation of this least studied as well as elusive species.

### **Observation**

On dated **13.09.2020** female Indian Gaint Flying Squirrel was found in Madanpur (22.371772 N to 82.784105 E) range entangled with fencing. The animal was injured and treated by Dr. Ram Sahu in the presence of Mr. Ashish Khelwalker SDO, DFO office, Korba. Because of wounded hind limb the Squirrel was unable to climb the tree.

The rescued Female Giant Flying Squirrel held at Kanan Pendari Zoo Bilaspur C.G. Indian giant flying Squirrel is long sized as it name, it is approximate 90cm in length. This species is also rescued and release to the deep forest from Kerakachhar, Bela, and also in Rajgamaar district Korba, C.G. There is no existing baseline data and distributional information of Indian Gaint Flying Squirrel in Chhattisgarh.



## Acknowledgement

We are very thankful to Mr. Vishwas Rao Meshram Deputy Director academic training centre Nimora Chhattisgarh for his encouragement at the time of preparing manuscript, we are grateful to Mr. Ashish Khelwalkar, SDO, DFO office, Korba for their fruitfully help in the field. We are also thankful to Dr. Ram Sahu Veterinarian Korba for his valuable treatment of the animal.

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