

Phenotypic Morphometric Study on an Adult Common Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*)

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Abstract: *The present study was carried out on an adult common palm male Civet, which died due to an accident. Probably it is the most common civet in India and vulnerable. They had un-patterned throat & neck and its body colour varies from a rich cream to brownish-black or even jet black. The different phenotypic morphological parameters like body length, neck girth, abdominal girth, heart girth, hip to digit length, length of paw of forelimb and hind limb, length of Manus and Pes etc were taken. The neck girth, abdominal girth, heart girth were 26cm, 33cm and 34.5cm, respectively and the body length of the animal was 67 cm. Phenotypically, Common Palm Civet has dark spots coalesce into stripes on the sides. It has three longitudinal stripes on its back.*

Key words: *Phenotype, Morphometry, Common Palm Civet*

I. Introduction

Common Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*) generally stay at deciduous and scrub forest and well wooded countryside. In 2008, its population was large but now its population is declining (1). From 2012 onwards, it was suggested that recent increases in capturing the animals for Kopi Luwak production may constitute a significant threat to wild civet populations (2). Its population is loss due to habitat destruction and poaching. Literature on the morphometry of Common Palm Civet is found to be scarce. Therefore, considering the importance of this species of Wildlife the present work was undertaken to elucidate the morphometry of the above said animal.

II. Materials and Method

In present investigation one adult Common palm Civet about 5-6 years old were utilized. The animal was brought to the Department of Veterinary Anatomy and Histology which was died due to road accident in College campus, Khanapara. Different phenotypic morphometric study was done on the animal.

III. Results and Discussion

Phenotypic ally, Common Palm Civet has dark spots coalesce into stripes on the sides (Fig.1). It has three longitudinal stripes on its back. The muzzle, ears, lower legs, and distal half of the tail are black. The body of animal was elongated and snout with sharp pointed teeth. The Civet has five toes to each foot and half retractile claws. It is solitary, arboreal, omnivorous and active at night. The tail is distinct. Morphometrically, the length of body of the animal was 67 cm. This finding was corroborated with the finding of (3). The neck girth, abdominal girth, heart girth were 26cm, 33cm and 34.5cm, respectively. The length of leg and Pes were 13.5 and 8.5 cm, respectively (Fig.2). The length of forearm and manus were 9.4cm and 4.5cm, respectively. The length and breadth of paw of forelimb were 4.7cm and 3cm, respectively. The length and breadth of paw of hind limb were 7.5cm and 3.2cm, respectively. The length of animal and shoulder were 127cm and 26cm, respectively. The length of tail was 55cm whereas (4) reported that the length of tail was 48 cm in Asian Palm Civet. It might be due to environmental condition of the animal.

IV. Conclusion

Phenotypic ally, Common Palm Civet has dark spots coalesce into stripes on the sides. The Civet has five toes to each foot and half retractile claws. It is solitary, arboreal, omnivorous and active at night. The tail is distinct. The neck girth, abdominal girth, heart girth were 26cm, 33cm and 34.5cm, respectively. The length of

leg and Pes were 13.5 and 8.5 cm, respectively. The length of forearm and manus were 9.4cm and 4.5cm, respectively.

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Fig. 1. Showing the common palm Civet and its un-patterned throat & neck and its body colour.



Fig.2. Common palm Civet showing the pes region with five toes