

## GLIMPSES OF BIODIVERSITY OF SACON CAMPUS

### SACON CAMPUS – A BIRD HAVEN



Spotted Dove  
*Streptopelia chinensis*

Blue-winged Parakeet  
*Psittacula columboides*

Indian Grey Hornbill  
*Ocyrceros birostris*

Common Hoopoe  
*Upupa epops*

The Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) is situated at Moongilpallam in the Anaikatty hills (11°05'30.9" N and 76°47'36.2" E), 30 km northwest of Coimbatore City, on the fringes of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, Western Ghats, Southern India.

Between January 2012 and September 2013, we conducted fortnightly surveys on fixed routes in and around the SACON campus including the bank of a seasonal stream located on the western side of the campus. During the survey periods 145 species of birds (76 passerine and 69 non-passerines) belonging to 106 genera, 48 families and 15 orders were recorded. Families with the highest number of species were Accipitridae and Sylviinae, with 12 and 9 species respectively. Two species, Blue-winged Parakeet and White-cheeked Barbet are endemic to the Western Ghats. Out of 145 species, 14 species, Oriental Honey-Buzzard, Black-shouldered Kite, Black Kite, Brahminy Kite, Crested Serpent-Eagle, Shikra, Besra Sparrowhawk, White-eyed Buzzard, Black Eagle, Bonelli's Eagle, Rufous-bellied Eagle, Changeable Hawk-Eagle, Indian Peafowl and Indian Grey Hornbill are included in the Schedule-I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Of the species recorded, 73 species were resident, 58 were local migrant and 14 were winter migrant. Green Sandpiper, Common Cuckoo, Indian Pitta, Forest Wagtail, Yellow Wagtail, Grey Wagtail, Brown Shrike, Blyth's Reed-Warbler, Greenish Leaf-Warbler, Hume's Lesser Whitethroat, Asian Brown Flycatcher, Verditer Flycatcher, Common Rosefinch, Rosy Starling were winter migrants a usually seen between November

#### Bird's eye view of SACON Buildings then and now indicating vegetation growth

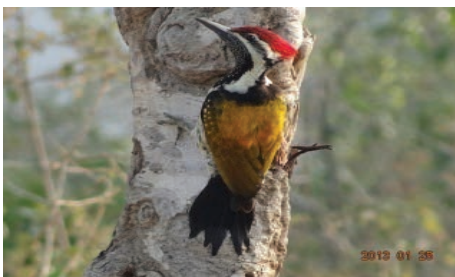


and January, whereas some individuals of Green Sandpiper, Indian Pitta and Grey Wagtail do occasionally oversummer in the campus .

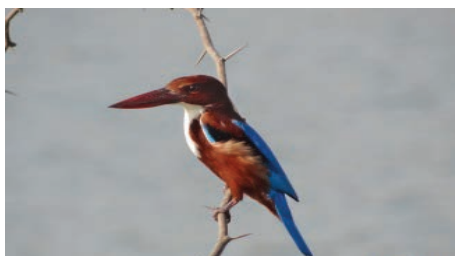
The assemblage of birds was composed of 38 common, 45 uncommon, 26 occasional, 24 rare and 12 abundant species. The most abundant species were Red-whiskered Bulbul, Red-vented Bulbul, White-browed Bulbul, White-headed Babbler, Blue-winged Parakeet, Small Bee-eater, Common Iora, Spotted Dove and Purple-rumped Sunbird. The White-necked Stork, Sirkeer Malkoha, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Black Bulbul, Orange-headed Thrush, Asian Fairy-Bluebird and Common Rosefinch were also sighted rarely.



Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*



Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker-  
*Dinopium benghalense*



White-breasted Kingfisher  
*Halcyon smyrnensis*

Forty species were found to be breeding in and around the SACON campus. Nest-sites of the Common Buttonquail, Red-wattled Lapwing, Spotted Dove, Spotted Owlet, Small Bee-eater, Common Hoopoe, Coppersmith Barbet, Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Red-vented Bulbul, White-browed Bulbul, Common Iora, Indian Robin, Rufous-bellied Babbler, Yellow-eyed Babbler, White-headed Babbler, Ashy Prinia, Common Tailorbird, Purple-rumped Sunbird, Black-headed Munia, House Sparrow, Common Myna, House Crow and Jungle Crow were seen while remaining species were observed with their juveniles.

Nirmala (2002) reported 187 species of birds from the larger area of Anaikatty hills of Western Ghats. Our study adds 19 additional species (White-necked Stork, Oriental Honey Buzzard, Besra Sparrowhawk, White-eyed Buzzard, Bonelli's Eagle, Rufous-bellied Eagle, Common Kestrel, Green Sandpiper, *Indian Plaintive Cuckoo*, *Jerdon's Nightjar*, *Stork-billed Kingfisher*, *Jerdon's Bushlark*, Eastern Skylark, Asian Fairy Bluebird, Orange-headed Thrush, Eurasian Blackbird, Large Grey Babbler, Black-naped Monarch-Flycatcher and White-rumped Munia) to the earlier records.

**Systematic list of bird species in and around SACON campus**

S.No	Family /Common Name	Scientific Name
	<b>Phalacrocoracidae</b>	
1	Little Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>
	<b>Ardeidae</b>	
2	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
3	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
4	Indian Pond-Heron	<i>Ardeola grayii</i>
	<b>Ciconiidae</b>	
5	White-necked Stork	<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>
	<b>Accipitridae</b>	
6	Oriental Honey-Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>

7	Black-shouldered Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
8	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
9	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
10	Crested Serpent-Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>
11	Shikra	<i>Accipiter badius</i>
12	Besra Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter virgatus</i>
13	White-eyed Buzzard	<i>Butastur teesa</i>
14	Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>
15	Bonelli's Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus fasciatus</i>
16	Rufous-bellied Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus kienerii</i>
17	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatu</i>

	<b>Falconidae</b>	
18	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
	<b>Phasianidae</b>	
19	Grey Francolin	<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>
20	Grey Junglefowl	<i>Gallus sonneratii</i>
21	Indian Peafowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>
	<b>Turnicidae</b>	
22	Common Buttonquail	<i>Turnix suscitator</i>
	<b>Rallidae</b>	
23	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
	<b>Charadriidae</b>	
24	Red-wattled Lapwing	<i>Vanellus indicus</i>
	<b>Scolopacidae</b>	
25	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
	<b>Columbidae</b>	
26	Blue Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
27	Little Brown Dove	<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>
28	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>
29	Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
30	Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
31	Yellow-legged Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>
	<b>Psittacidae</b>	
32	Indian Hanging-Parrot	<i>Loriculus vernalis</i>
33	Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>
34	Plum-headed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>
35	Blue-winged Parakeet	<i>Psittacula columboides</i>
	<b>Cuculidae</b>	
36	Pied Crested Cuckoo	<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>
37	Brainfever Bird	<i>Hierococcyx varius</i>
38	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
39	Indian Plaintive Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>
40	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i>
41	Small Green-billed Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus viridirostris</i>
42	Sirkeer Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus leschenaultii</i>
43	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>

	<b>Strigidae</b>	
44	Brown Fish-Owl	<i>Ketupa zeylonensis</i>
45	Spotted Owlet	<i>Athene brama</i>
	<b>Caprimulgidae</b>	
46	Jerdon's Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus atripennis</i>
47	Common Indian Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>
	<b>Apodidae</b>	
48	Asian Palm-Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>
49	House Swift	<i>Apus affinis</i>
	<b>Hemiprocnidae</b>	
50	Crested Tree-Swift	<i>Hemiprocnis coronata</i>
	<b>Alcedinidae</b>	
51	Small Blue Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
52	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon capensis</i>
53	White-breasted Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>
54	Lesser Pied Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle rudis</i>
	<b>Meropidae</b>	
55	Blue-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctornis athertoni</i>
56	Small Bee-eater	<i>Merops orientalis</i>
57	Chestnut-headed Bee-eater	<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>
	<b>Coraciidae</b>	
58	Indian Roller	<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>
	<b>Upupidae</b>	
59	Common Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
	<b>Bucerotidae</b>	
60	Indian Grey Hornbill	<i>Ocyrceros birostris</i>
	<b>Capitonidae</b>	
61	Brown-headed Barbet	<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>
62	White-cheeked Barbet	<i>Megalaima viridis</i>
63	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>
	<b>Picidae</b>	
64	Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos nanus</i>
65	Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Celeus brachyurus</i>
66	Small Yellow-naped Woodpecker	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>

67	Little Scaly-bellied Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus xanthopygaeus</i>
68	Common Golden-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dinopium javanense</i>
69	Lesser Golden-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>
	<b>Pittidae</b>	
70	Indian Pitta	<i>Pitta brachyura</i>
	<b>Alaudidae</b>	
71	Jerdon's Bushlark	<i>Mirafra affinis</i>
72	Eastern Skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>
	<b>Hirundinidae</b>	
73	Common Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
74	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>
	<b>Motacillidae</b>	
75	Forest Wagtail	<i>Dendronanthus indicus</i>
76	Large Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla maderaspatensis</i>
77	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
78	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
	<b>Campephagidae</b>	
79	Black-headed Cuckoo-Shrike	<i>Coracina melanoptera</i>
80	Small Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>
81	Common Woodshrike	<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>
	<b>Pycnonotidae</b>	
82	Red-whiskered Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>
83	Red-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>
84	White-browed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>
85	Black Bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>
	<b>Irenidae</b>	
86	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>
87	Jerdon's Chloropsis	<i>Chloropsis cochinchinensis</i>
88	Gold-fronted Chloropsis	<i>Chloropsis aurifrons</i>
89	Asian Fairy-Bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>
	<b>Laniidae</b>	
90	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>
91	Rufous-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>
	<b>Turdinae</b>	
92	Malabar Whistling-Thrush	<i>Myiophonus horsfieldii</i>

93	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Zoothera citrina</i>
94	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
95	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
96	Indian Robin	<i>Saxicoloides fulicata</i>
97	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>
	<b>Timaliinae</b>	
98	Spotted Babbler	<i>Pellorneum ruficeps</i>
99	Indian Scimitar-Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus horsfieldii</i>
100	Rufous-bellied Babbler	<i>Dumetia hyperythra</i>
101	Yellow-eyed Babbler	<i>Chrysomma sinense</i>
102	Large Grey Babbler	<i>Turdoides malcolmi</i>
103	Jungle Babbler	<i>Turdoides striatus</i>
104	White-headed Babbler	<i>Turdoides affinis</i>
	<b>Sylviinae</b>	
105	Grey-breasted Prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>
106	Jungle Prinia	<i>Prinia sylvatica</i>
107	Ashy Prinia	<i>Prinia socialis</i>
108	Plain Prinia	<i>Prinia inornata</i>
109	Blyth's Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus dumetorum</i>
110	Booted Warbler	<i>Hippolais caligata</i>
111	Common Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sutorius</i>
112	Greenish Leaf-Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>
113	Hume's Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia althaea</i>
	<b>Muscicapinae</b>	
114	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>
115	Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassina</i>
116	Tickell's Blue-Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis tickelliae</i>
	<b>Monarchinae</b>	
117	Asian Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>
118	Black-naped Monarch-Flycatcher	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>
	<b>Paridae</b>	
119	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
	<b>Dicaeidae</b>	
120	Tickell's Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum erythrorhynchos</i>
	<b>Nectariniidae</b>	
121	Purple-rumped Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia zeylonica</i>
122	Purple Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia asiatica</i>
123	Loten's Sunbird	<i>Nectarinia lotenia</i>

	<b>Fringillidae</b>	
124	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>
125	White-throated Munia	<i>Lonchura malabarica</i>
126	White-rumped Munia	<i>Lonchura striata</i>
127	Spotted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>
128	Black-headed Munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>
	<b>Passerinae</b>	
129	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
	<b>Ploceinae</b>	
130	Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>
	<b>Sturnidae</b>	
131	Brahminy Starling	<i>Sturnus pagodarum</i>
132	Rosy Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>
133	Common Myna	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
134	Jungle Myna	<i>Acridotheres fuscus</i>
	<b>Oriolidae</b>	
135	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>

136	Black-headed Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthornus</i>
	<b>Dicruridae</b>	
137	Black Drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>
138	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>
139	White-bellied Drongo	<i>Dicrurus caerulescens</i>
140	Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>
141	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>
	<b>Artamidae</b>	
142	Ashy Woodswallow	<i>Artamus fuscus</i>
	<b>Corvidae</b>	
143	Indian Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>
144	House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>
145	Jungle Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>

**Reference** : <http://threatenedtaxa.org/ZooPrintJournal/2013/December/o366026xii135288-5298.pdf>

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## FLORISTIC WEALTH

SACON is situated at Moongipallam, Anaikkatty, Coimbatore. Etymologically Moongilpallam means “Bamboo Valley” and Anaikkatty means “Congregation of Elephants” in Tamil. Apparently the bamboos, water sources (streams) and thick vegetation of the forests would have made this location an important habitat for Elephants. Being located on the eastern slope (~ 600 elevation), the climate is dry with temperature soaring up to 41°C during summer and the annual rainfall rarely exceeds 650 mm. The SACON campus was established during early 1994 in



*Mundulea sericea*

55 acres of degraded land. Tree planting initiatives (in 2000) and protection measures against livestock grazing enhanced the vegetation growth inside the campus and it has become an attraction to many bird species. The campus is dominated by scrub forest where a small patch of Eucalyptus plantation is also found.

The SACON campus is contiguous with hills and forests. The vegetation of the adjoining Reserve Forests is classified as southern mixed dry deciduous forest. The vegetation in the campus is dominated by scrub forest. The campus terrain is undulating with valleys and hill tops. A stream flows through the campus and merges with Perumppallam in the Reserve Forest.

During the middle 1990's when the campus was established, it had hardly any trees and was a highly degraded site with rampant cattle grazing. After the establishment of buildings and other infrastructure, SACON initiated various conservation programs such as tree planting and protective measures. The tree planting program in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department during the last decade had yielded a good result in re-establishing the greenery of the campus largely with native species. Thereafter, the greenery of SACON campus has improved tremendously. Protection of the campus coupled with the planting of native trees are the major reasons attributed to the vegetation cover change.

More than 30 species of native trees have been planted in the campus. As a result, the campus has developed into a small forest which attracts a lot of wild fauna.

As early as 1995, we have initiated flora and vegetation related studies inside the campus. Periodic floristic enumeration was done to prepare a check list of plants of the campus. In addition, ecological studies were undertaken to understand the tree community structure, impact of human disturbances on the vegetation, flowering and fruiting phenology and seed dispersal.

### Floristic wealth



Campus stream in monsoon 2013

The SACON campus harbours 194 species of plants belonging to 32 families. Largest family is Poaceae comprising 17 species, followed by Fabaceae (15) and Euphorbiaceae (13). The campus is represented by all major growth forms of plants. Highest number of species is represented by trees (37%) followed by herbs (20%) and other forms include climbers, stragglers, sedges and grasses. Commonly occurring tree species are *Premna tomentosa*, *Albizia amara* and *Chloroxylon swietenia*. The campus harbours an endemic shrub *Capparis grandiflora* Wall. ex Hook.f. & Thomson (Capparaceae) reported from only a few localities of peninsular India.

Tree planting programs undertaken by SACON has resulted in the successful establishment of several native tree species. *Pongamia pinnata*, *Syzygium cumini*, *Cassine glauca* and *Bombax malabaricum* showed better survival, when compared to other species. The growth rates were observed to be exponential for *Syzygium cumini* and *Bombax malabaricum* where some trees' GBH has reached to 280 cm and 150 cm respectively within eight years. *Pongamia pinnata* is observed to be the most adaptive species in the

SACON landscape. The protection offered against the livestock invasion inside the campus resulted in a better natural regeneration of few native species such as *Santalum album*, *Chloroxylon swietenia*, *Capparis grandis* and *Mundulea sericea*. Although banyan, *Ficus benghalensis* and peepal *Ficus religiosa* trees were planted in large numbers, due to browsing and trampling, nil survival has been reported. Although the spread of threatened species *Santalum album* in the campus is found to be a good sign of natural regeneration, protection of adult trees from poachers has become a real challenge.



*Cassia fistula*

## Exotic weeds

The campus abounds in exotic weeds. *Lantana camara*, *Prosopis juliflora*, *Chromolaena odorata*, and *Parthenium hysterophorus* are abundant. *Parthenium* and *Chromalena* are found to be the early colonizers of open areas which gets replaced by the invasion of *Prosopis* and *Lantana*. Apparently bird dispersal aids in the widespread establishment of *Lantana*.

## Conservation implications

Display boards with the photographs of common plants occurring in the campus are fixed for the benefit of visitors. Woody plants found near the buildings and approach road carry metal tags furnishing the scientific name of the plant.

Conservation of genetic resources in the in-situ conditions is a major challenge for some taxa which are sensitive to ecological disturbances. In such cases, ex-situ conservation plays a major role where species will be conserved in human influenced environs. SACON campus is unique in conserving the forest genetic resources in the in-situ conditions where its allied faunal taxa such as birds, mammals and invertebrates are also conserved.

S.No	Binomial
1	<b>Acanthaceae</b> <i>Blepharis maderaspatensis</i> (L.) Heyne ex Roth <i>Justicia betonica</i> L. <i>Justicia tranquebariensis</i> L.f. <i>Ruellia colorata</i> Blume <i>Ruellia tuberosa</i> L.
2	<b>Agavaceae</b> <i>Agave sisalana</i> Perrine ex Engelm
3	<b>Alangiaceae</b> <i>Alangium salvifolium</i> (L.f.) Wang
4	<b>Amaranthaceae</b> <i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L. <i>Alternanthera triandra</i> L.
5	<b>Amaryllidaceae</b> <i>Crinum asiaticum</i> L.
6	<b>Annonaceae</b> <i>Annona reticulata</i> L. <i>Polyalthia longifolia</i> (Sonner) Thw.
7	<b>Apocynaceae</b> <i>Carissa spinarum</i> L. <i>Ichnocarpus frutescens</i> (L.) R.Br. <i>Nerium oleander</i> L.
8	<b>Araliaceae</b> <i>Schefflera actinophylla</i> (Endl.) Harms
9	<b>Asclepiadaceae</b> <i>Calotropis gigantea</i> (L.) R.Br. <i>Gymnema sylvestre</i> (Retz.) R.Br. ex Schultes <i>Leptadenia reticulata</i> (Retz.) Wight & Arn. <i>Tylophora indica</i> (Burm.f.) Merr.
10	<b>Asteraceae</b> <i>Chromolaena odorata</i> (L.) King & Robinson <i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i> L. <i>Tridax procumbens</i> L. <i>Emilia sonchifolia</i> (L.) DC.
11	<b>Bignoniaceae</b> <i>Millingtonia hortensis</i> L.f. <i>Spathodea campanulata</i> Beauv. <i>Tabebuia rosea</i> (Bertol) DC. <i>Tecoma stans</i> (L.) Kunth
12	<b>Bombacaceae</b> <i>Bombax ceiba</i> L.
13	<b>Boraginaceae</b> <i>Carmona retusa</i> (Vahl) Masamune <i>Cordia monoica</i> Roxb. <i>Cordia sebestena</i> L. <i>Ehretia ovalifolia</i> Wight <i>Trichodesma indicum</i> (L.) R. Br.
14	<b>Cactaceae</b> <i>Opuntia stricta</i> (Haw.) Haw.
15	<b>Caesalpiniaceae</b> <i>Bauhinia racemosa</i> Lam. <i>Cassia fistula</i> L. <i>Cassia marginata</i> Roxb. <i>Delonix regia</i> (Hook.) Raf. <i>Peltophorum pterocarpum</i> (DC.) Backer ex K. Heyne <i>Pterolobium hexapetalum</i> (Roth.) Sant. & Wagh <i>Senna auriculata</i> (L.) Roxb. <i>Senna occidentalis</i> (L.) Link <i>Tamarindus indica</i> L.
16	<b>Capparaceae</b> <i>Capparis brevispina</i> DC. <i>Capparis grandiflora</i> Wall ex Hook.f. & Thomas <i>Capparis grandis</i> L.f. <i>Capparis sepiaria</i> L.
17	<b>Celastraceae</b> <i>Cassine glauca</i> (Rottb.) Kuntze <i>Maytenus heyneana</i> (Roth) Raju & Babu
18	<b>Colchicaceae</b> <i>Iphigenia indica</i> (L.) A. Gray ex Kunth

19	<b>Combretaceae</b> <i>Terminalia arjuna</i> (Roxb.) Wt. & Arn.
20	<b>Commelinaceae</b> <i>Cyanotis arachnoidea</i> Clarke <i>Cyanotis cristata</i> (L.) Schultes f. <i>Cyanotis tuberosa</i> (Roxb.) Schultes & Schultes
21	<b>Coniferae</b> <i>Araucaria cunninghamiana</i> * Aiton ex D.Don
22	<b>Convolvulaceae</b> <i>Argyreia pomacea</i> (Roxb.) Choisy <i>Evolvulus alsinoides</i> (L.) L.
23	<b>Cucurbitaceae</b> <i>Citrullus colocynthis</i> (L.) Schrader
24	<b>Cyperaceae</b> <i>Cyperus eleusinoides</i> Kunth <i>Cyperus teneriffae</i> Poir. <i>Cyperus triceps</i> Endl. <i>Fimbristylis falcata</i> (Vahl.) Kunth <i>Kyllingia monocephala</i> Rottb. <i>Scirpus subcapitatus</i> Thw.
25	<b>Dilleniaceae</b> <i>Dillenia indica</i> L.
26	<b>Dioscoreaceae</b> <i>Dioscorea pentaphylla</i> L.
27	<b>Ebenaceae</b> <i>Diospyros ferrea</i> (Willd.) Bakh. <i>Maba buxifolia</i> (Rottb.) Juss
28	<b>Erythroxylaceae</b> <i>Erythroxylum monogynum</i> Roxb.
29	<b>Euphorbiaceae</b> <i>Acalypha fruticosa</i> Forssk. <i>Breynia vitis-idaea</i> (Burm.f.) Fischer <i>Croton bonplandianum</i> Baill. <i>Euphorbia antiquorum</i> L. <i>Euphorbia hirta</i> L. <i>Flueggea leucopyrus</i> Willd. <i>Phyllanthus amarus</i> Schum. & Thonn. <i>Phyllanthus debilis</i> Klein ex Willd. <i>Phyllanthus emblica</i> L. <i>Phyllanthus polyphyllus</i> Willd. <i>Phyllanthus urinaria</i> L. <i>Tragia involucrata</i> L. <i>Trewia nudiflora</i> L.
30	<b>Fabaceae</b> <i>Alysicarpus monilifer</i> (L.) DC. <i>Clitoria ternatea</i> L. <i>Crotalaria nimmularia</i> Willd. <i>Dalbergia paniculata</i> Roxb. <i>Desmodium wightii</i> Wight & Arn. <i>Erythrina indica</i> Lam. <i>Erythrina variegata</i> Lam. <i>Indigofera linnaei</i> Ali <i>Indigofera tinctoria</i> L. <i>Mundulea sericea</i> (Willd.) A. Cheval <i>Pongamia pinnata</i> (L.) Pierre

	<i>Pseudarthria viscida</i> (L.) Wight & Arn. <i>Rhynchosia aurea</i> (Willd.) DC. <i>Tephrosia villosa</i> (L.) Pers. <i>Vigna wightii</i> Benth. ex Bedd.
31	<b>Flacourtiaceae</b> <i>Flacourtia indica</i> (Burm.f.) Merr.
32	<b>Lamiaceae</b> <i>Leucas aspera</i> (Willd.) Link <i>Leucas helianthemifolia</i> Desf. <i>Ocimum americanum</i> L. <i>Ocimum gratissimum</i> L. <i>Ocimum tenuiflorum</i> L.
33	<b>Loganiaceae</b> <i>Strychnos potatorum</i> L.
34	<b>Lythraceae</b> <i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> L. <i>Lagerstroemia reginae</i> Roxb.
35	<b>Malvaceae</b> <i>Abutilon indicum</i> (L.) Sweet <i>Malvastrum coromandelianum</i> (L.) Garcke <i>Pavonia zeylanica</i> (L.) Cav. <i>Sida acuta</i> Burm.f. <i>Sida cordifolia</i> L. <i>Sida mysorensis</i> Wight & Arn. <i>Sida rhombifolia</i> L. <i>Thespesia populnea</i> (L.) Soland ex Correa
36	<b>Meliaceae</b> <i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Juss. <i>Cipadessa baccifera</i> (Roth) Miq.
37	<b>Mimosaceae</b> <i>Acacia latronum</i> (L.f) Willd. <i>Acacia leucophloea</i> (Roxb.) Willd. <i>Acacia polyacantha</i> Willd. <i>Acacia torta</i> (Roxb.) Craib <i>Albizia amara</i> (Roxb.) Boivin <i>Albizia lebbeck</i> (L.) Willd. <i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i> (L.) Wight & Arn. <i>Leucaena leucocephala</i> (L.) Gills <i>Pithecollobium dulce</i> (Roxb.) Benth. <i>Prosopis juliflora</i> (Sw.) DC.
38	<b>Moraceae</b> <i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i> * Lam. <i>Ficus benghalensis</i> L. <i>Ficus elastica</i> Roxb. ex Hornem. <i>Ficus religiosa</i> L.
39	<b>Myrtaceae</b> <i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> Labill <i>Eucalyptus longifolia</i> Link & Otto <i>Psidium guajava</i> L. <i>Syzygium cumini</i> (L.) Skeels
40	<b>Nyctaginaceae</b> <i>Boerhavia diffusa</i> L.
41	<b>Oleaceae</b> <i>Jasminum angustifolium</i> (L.) Willd.

42	<b>Oxalidaceae</b> <i>Oxalis corniculata</i> L.	47	<b>Rutaceae</b> <i>Chloroxylon swietenia</i> DC. <i>Citrus medica</i> L. <i>Clausena dentata</i> (Willd.) M. Roem <i>Murraya paniculata</i> (L.) Jack <i>Pleiospermium alatum</i> (Wight & Arn.) Swingle <i>Toddalia asiatica</i> (L.) Lam.
43	<b>Periplocaceae</b> <i>Hemidesmus indicus</i> (L.) R.Br.	48	<b>Santalaceae</b> <i>Santalum album</i> L.
44	<b>Poaceae</b> <i>Aristida setacea</i> Retz. <i>Bambusa bambos</i> Voss <i>Bothriochloa pertusa</i> (L.) A. Camus <i>Brachiaria ramosa</i> (L.) Stapf <i>Cynodon barberi</i> Rang & Tad. <i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (L.) Pers. <i>Cyrtococcum deccanense</i> Bor <i>Dactyloctenium aegyptium</i> (L.) Willd. <i>Digitaria bicornis</i> (Lam.) Roem. & Schultes <i>Eragrostiella brachyphylla</i> (Stapf.) Bor <i>Eragrostis coarctata</i> Stapf. <i>Eragrostis minor</i> Host <i>Eragrostis tenella</i> (L.) P. Beauv ex Roem. & Schultes <i>Oplismenus compositus</i> (L.) P. Beauv <i>Paspalum scrobiculatum</i> L. <i>Sporobolus indicus</i> (L.) R. Br. <i>Urochloa setigera</i> (Retz.) Stapf in Prain	49	<b>Sapindaceae</b> <i>Cardiospermum canescens</i> Wall. <i>Filicium decipiens</i> (Wight & Arn.) Thw.
45	<b>Rhamnaceae</b> <i>Scutia myrtina</i> (Burm. f.) Kurz. <i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i> Lam. <i>Ziziphus oenoplia</i> (L.) Mill <i>Ziziphus xylopyrus</i> (Retz.) Willd.	50	<b>Sapotaceae</b> <i>Bassia latifolia</i> Roxb. <i>Madhuca longifolia</i> (Koen.) Macbr.
46	<b>Rubiaceae</b> <i>Canthium dicoccum</i> (Gaertn.) Teijsm. & Binnend. <i>Catunaregam spinosa</i> (Thunb.) Tirvengadam <i>Gardenia resinifera</i> Roth <i>Hedyotis puberula</i> (G.Don) Arn. <i>Ixora finlaysonianana</i> Wall. ex G.Don <i>Mitracarpus villosus</i> (Sw.) DC. <i>Psydrax dicoccos</i> Gaertn. <i>Tarenna asiatica</i> (L.) Kuntze	51	<b>Simaroubaceae</b> <i>Ailanthus excelsa</i> Roxb.
		52	<b>Solanaceae</b> <i>Solanum surrattense</i> Burm.f.
		53	<b>Sterculiaceae</b> <i>Sterculia foetida</i> L.
		54	<b>Tiliaceae</b> <i>Corchorus olitorius</i> L. <i>Grewia hirsuta</i> Vahl. <i>Grewia tiliifolia</i> Vahl.
		55	<b>Ulmaceae</b> <i>Celtis philippensis</i> Blanco <i>Trema orientalis</i> (L.) Blume
		56	<b>Verbenaceae</b> <i>Duranta erecta</i> L. <i>Lantana camara</i> L. <i>Lantana indica</i> Roxb. <i>Premna tomentosa</i> Willd. <i>Stachytarpheta jamaicensis</i> (L.) Vahl
		57	<b>Violaceae</b> <i>Hybanthus enneaspermus</i> (L.) F. Muell.
		58	<b>Vitaceae</b> <i>Cissus quadrangularis</i> L.

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## BUTTERFLIES

Western Ghats, a paradise for butterflies, is reported to have 334 species of butterflies belonging to six families (Padhye, 2012). Situated on the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats, north of Palghat Gap, SACON Campus (in Anaikatty Hills) supports large number of butterflies; 93 species have already been reported (Eswaran and Pramod 2005, Eswaran 2006). During our recent survey (August 2012 – December 2013) in and around SACON campus, we recorded 91 species of butterflies belonging to five families. This survey added 13 new additions to the butterflies of Anaikatty namely Tawny rajah (*Charaxes bernardus*), Bamboo tree brown (*Lethe europa*) and



Tawny rajah  
(Photo: J. Aruna)



**Bamboo tree brown**  
(Photo: Ramesh Kumar)

Short-banded Sailor (*Phaedyma columella*) from Nymphallidae, Small Salmon Arab (*Colotis amata*) from Pieridae, four species from the family Lycaenidae namely Peacock Royal (*Tajuria cippus*), Indian Sun Beam (*Curetis thetis*), Slate Flash (*Rapala manea*) and Plane (*Bindahara phocides*) and the remaining five species are from Hesperidae namely Dark Palm Dart (*Telicota ancilla*), Small Branded Swift (*Pelopidas mathias*), Water Snow Flat (*Tagiades litigiosa*), Golden Angle (*Caltoris ransonnetti*) and African

Marbled Skipper (*Gomalia elma*). Sixteen species of butterflies reported by Eswaran (2006) were not found during our present survey. With 13 new additions, the present number of butterfly species at Anaikatty hills is 106, dominated by Nymphalidae (36 species) followed by Lycaenidae (25), Pieridae (17), Papilionidae (15) and Hesperidae (13). Flowering of *Murraya paniculata*, *Tecoma stans*, *Santalum album* and *Duranta repens* within the campus attracts large number of butterflies including those like Southern Birdwing, Blue Mormon and Red Helen. Mass breeding and egg laying of Common Emigrants on *Cassia fistula* during August and September months is a phenomenon witnessed in the campus every year. SACON campus also witnesses an amazing spectacle of directional (Southeast to Northwest) mass movement of butterflies during November month every year, also recorded by Dr. Eswaran in 2003 and 2004 in his PhD Work. In November 2012, we observed this mass movement of butterflies comprising mainly of the Milkweed butterflies (Family Nymphalidae;



**Short banded sailor**  
(Photo: P.R Arun)



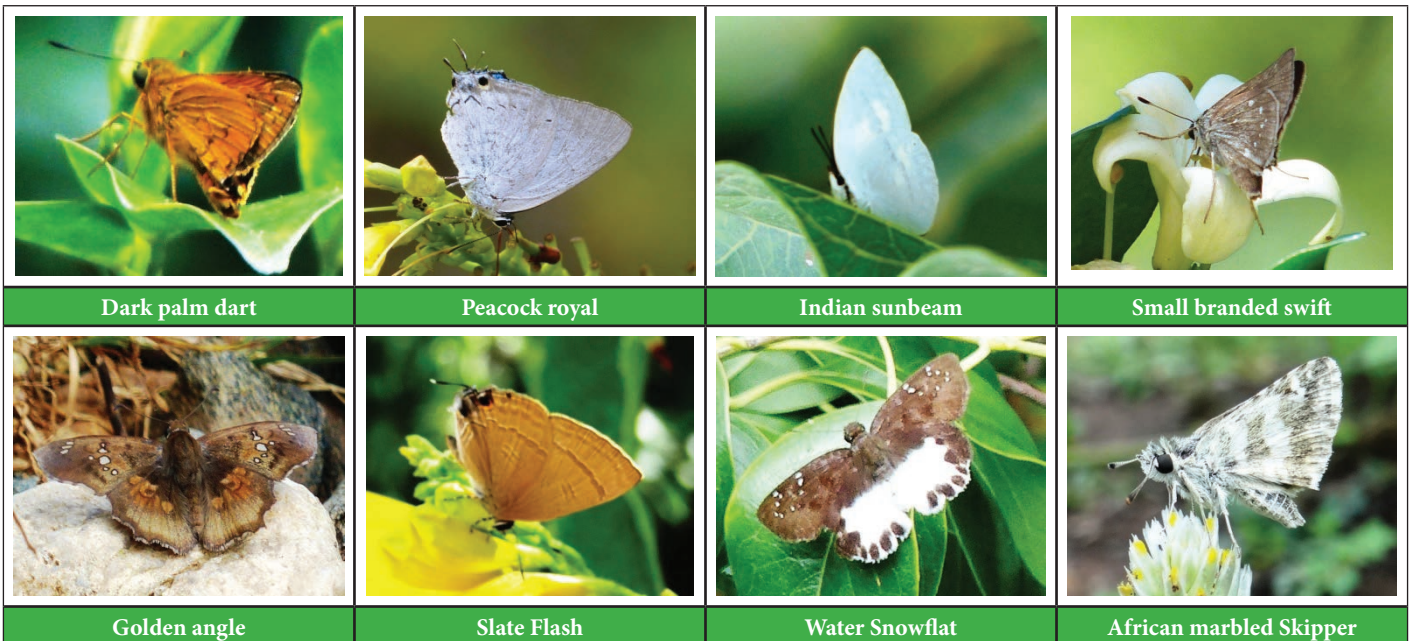
**Small salmon arab**  
(Photo: Ramesh Kumar)

Subfamily Danainae) dominated by the Blue tiger butterflies (*Tirumala limniace*). We recorded 10 species of butterflies in the migrating swarm during our observation namely Blue tiger *Tirumala limniace*, Common crow *Euploea core*, Common emigrant *Catopsilia pomona*, Plain tiger *Danaus chrysippus*, Common leopard *Phalanta phalantha*, Lemon pansy *Junonia lemonias*, Danaid egg fly *Hypolimnys missipus*, Double banded crow *Euploea Sylvester*, Dark blue



**Plane**  
(Mohamed Samsoor Ali)

tiger *Tirumala septentrionis* and Lime butterfly *Papilio demoleus*. Long term systematic monitoring of the butterfly assemblage would be required to throw more light into their ecology and interesting seasonal patterns.



(Photos : Ramesh Kumar)

## Checklist of butterflies recorded in Anaikatty hills

SI.No	Family	Common Name	Scientific Name	Records
1	Papilionidae	Common Jay	<i>Graphium doson</i>	B
2	Papilionidae	Tailed Jay	<i>Graphium agammemnon</i>	B
3	Papilionidae	Spot Swordtail	<i>Graphium nomius</i>	B
4	Papilionidae	Common Blue Bottle	<i>Graphium sarpedon</i>	B
5	Papilionidae	Common Rose	<i>Pachliopta aristolochiae</i>	B
6	Papilionidae	Crimson Rose	<i>Pachliopta hector</i>	B
7	Papilionidae	Malabar Banded Peacock*	<i>Papilio buddha</i>	ESW
8	Papilionidae	Malabar Raven*	<i>Papilio dravidarum</i>	ESW
9	Papilionidae	Lime	<i>Papilio demoleus</i>	B
10	Papilionidae	Red Helen	<i>Papilio helenus</i>	B
11	Papilionidae	Common Mormon	<i>Papilio polytes</i>	B
12	Papilionidae	Blue Mormon	<i>Papilio polymnestor</i>	B
13	Papilionidae	Common Banded Peacock	<i>Papilio crino</i>	B
14	Papilionidae	Southern Birdwing*	<i>Troides minos</i>	B
15	Papilionidae	Common Mime	<i>Papilio clytia</i>	B
16	Pieridae	Pioneer	<i>Belenois aurota</i>	B
17	Pieridae	Common Albatross	<i>Appias albina</i>	B
18	Pieridae	Chocolate Albatross	<i>Appias lycinda</i>	ESW
19	Pieridae	Small Orange Tip	<i>Colotis etrida</i>	B
20	Pieridae	Common Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia pomona</i>	B
21	Pieridae	Mottled Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia pyranthe</i>	B
22	Pieridae	Common Gull	<i>Cepora nerissa</i>	B
23	Pieridae	Crimson Tip	<i>Colotis danae</i>	B
24	Pieridae	Common Jezebel	<i>Delias eucharis</i>	B
25	Pieridae	Three-spot Grass yellow	<i>Eurema blanda</i>	B
26	Pieridae	Common Grass yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>	B
27	Pieridae	Great Oragne Tip	<i>Hebomoia glaucippe</i>	B
28	Pieridae	White Orange Tip	<i>Ixias marianne</i>	B
29	Pieridae	Yellow Orange tip	<i>Ixias pyrene</i>	B
30	Pieridae	Psyche	<i>Leptosia nina</i>	B
31	Pieridae	Small Salmon Arab	<i>Colotis amata</i>	RA
32	Pieridae	Common Wanderer	<i>Pareronia valeria</i>	B
33	Nymphalidae	Tawny Rajah	<i>Charaxes bernardus</i>	RA
34	Nymphalidae	Bamboo Treebrown	<i>Lethe europa</i>	RA
35	Nymphalidae	Tawny Coster	<i>Acraea violae</i>	B
36	Nymphalidae	Common Castor	<i>Ariadne merione</i>	B
37	Nymphalidae	Black Rajah	<i>Charaxes Solon</i>	ESW
38	Nymphalidae	Tamil Yeoman	<i>Cirrochroa thais</i>	B
39	Nymphalidae	Rustic	<i>Cupha erymanthis</i>	B
40	Nymphalidae	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	ESW
41	Nymphalidae	Common Map	<i>Cyrestis thyodamas</i>	ESW
42	Nymphalidae	Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	B
43	Nymphalidae	Striped Tiger	<i>Danaus genutia</i>	B
44	Nymphalidae	Common Palmfly	<i>Elymnias hypermnestra</i>	B

45	Nymphalidae	Common Indian Crow	<i>Euploea core</i>	B
46	Nymphalidae	Double Banded Crow	<i>Euploea sylvester</i>	B
47	Nymphalidae	Baronet	<i>Euthalia nais</i>	ESW
48	Nymphalidae	Great Eggfly	<i>Hypolimnas bolina</i>	B
49	Nymphalidae	Danaid Eggfly	<i>Hypolimnas misippus</i>	B
50	Nymphalidae	Peacock Pansy	<i>Junonia almana</i>	B
51	Nymphalidae	Yellow Pansy	<i>Junonia hierta</i>	B
52	Nymphalidae	Lemon Pansy	<i>Junonia lemonias</i>	B
53	Nymphalidae	Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia orithya</i>	B
54	Nymphalidae	Common Beak	<i>Libythea lepita</i>	B
55	Nymphalidae	Common Evening Brown	<i>Melanitis leda</i>	B
56	Nymphalidae	Gladeye Bushbrown	<i>Mycalesis patnia</i>	B
57	Nymphalidae	Common Bushbrown	<i>Mycalesis perseus</i>	B
58	Nymphalidae	Short Banded Sailor	<i>Phaedyma columella</i>	RA
59	Nymphalidae	Common Sailor	<i>Mycalesis hylas</i>	B
60	Nymphalidae	Common Lascar	<i>Pantoporia hordonia</i>	B
61	Nymphalidae	Nilgiri Tiger*	<i>Pantoporia nilgiriensis</i>	ESW
62	Nymphalidae	Clipper	<i>Parthenos sylvia</i>	ESW
63	Nymphalidae	Common Leopard	<i>Phalanta phalantha</i>	B
64	Nymphalidae	Common Nawab	<i>Polyura athamas</i>	B
65	Nymphalidae	Chocolate Pansy	<i>Junonia iphita</i>	B
66	Nymphalidae	Blue Tiger	<i>Tirumala limniace</i>	B
67	Nymphalidae	Dark Blue Tiger	<i>Tirumala septentrionis</i>	B
68	Nymphalidae	Common Fourring	<i>Ypthima huebneri</i>	B
69	Nymphalidae	White Fourring	<i>Ypthima ceylonica</i>	B
70	Lycaenidae	Indian Oakblue	<i>Arhopala atrax</i>	ESW
71	Lycaenidae	Common Pierrot	<i>Castalius rosimon</i>	B
72	Lycaenidae	Lime Blue	<i>Chilades laius</i>	B
73	Lycaenidae	Plains Cupid	<i>Chilades pandava</i>	ESW
74	Lycaenidae	Banded Blue Pierrot	<i>Discolampa ethion</i>	B
75	Lycaenidae	Gram Blue	<i>Euchrysops cnejus</i>	B
76	Lycaenidae	Grass Jewel	<i>Freyeria trochylus</i>	B
77	Lycaenidae	Metallic Cerulean	<i>Jamides alecto</i>	ESW
78	Lycaenidae	Dark Cerulean	<i>Jamides bochus</i>	B
79	Lycaenidae	Common Cerulean	<i>Jamides celeno</i>	B
80	Lycaenidae	Slate Flash	<i>Rapala manea</i>	RA
81	Lycaenidae	Pea Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	B
82	Lycaenidae	Zebra Blue	<i>Leptotes plinius</i>	B
83	Lycaenidae	Yam Fly	<i>Loxura atymnus</i>	B
84	Lycaenidae	Quaker	<i>Neopithecops zalmora</i>	ESW
85	Lycaenidae	Monkey Puzzle	<i>Rathinda amor</i>	B
86	Lycaenidae	Common Silverline	<i>Spindasis vulcanus</i>	B
87	Lycaenidae	Rounded Pierrot	<i>Tarucus nara</i>	B
88	Lycaenidae	Red Pierrot	<i>Talicauda nyseus</i>	B
89	Lycaenidae	Dark Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria karsandra</i>	ESW
90	Lycaenidae	Lesser Grass Blue	<i>Zizina otis</i>	B

91	Lycaenidae	Plane	<i>Bindahara phocides</i>	RA
92	Lycaenidae	Peacock Royal	<i>Tajuria cippus</i>	RA
93	Lycaenidae	Indian Sunbeam	<i>Curetis thetis</i>	RA
94	Lycaenidae	Tiny Grass Blue	<i>Zizina hylax</i>	B
95	Hesperiidae	Brown Awl	<i>Badamia exclamationis</i>	B
96	Hesperiidae	Common Banded Awl	<i>Hasora chromus</i>	B
97	Hesperiidae	White Banded Awl	<i>Hasora taminatus</i>	B
98	Hesperiidae	Chestnut Bob	<i>Iambrix salsala</i>	ESW
99	Hesperiidae	Fulvous Pied Flat	<i>Pseudocoladenia dan</i>	B
100	Hesperiidae	Indian Skipper	<i>Spailia galba</i>	B
101	Hesperiidae	Golden Angle	<i>Caltoris ransonnetti</i>	RA
102	Hesperiidae	Small Branded Swift	<i>Pelopidas mathias</i>	RA
103	Hesperiidae	African Marbled Skipper	<i>Gomalia elma</i>	RA
104	Hesperiidae	Dark Palm Dart	<i>Telicota ancilla</i>	RA
105	Hesperiidae	Water Snow Flat	<i>Tagiades litigiosa</i>	RA
106	Hesperiidae	Suffused Snow flat	<i>Tagiades gana</i>	B

B- Recorded both in present survey and Eswaran 2006, RA- New Additions, ESW- Recorded only Eswaran 2006

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Eswaran, R. and Pramod, P. 2005. Structure of butterfly community of Anaikatty hills, Western Ghats. *Zoosprint Journal* 20(8):1939-1942.

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#### HERPETOFAUNA

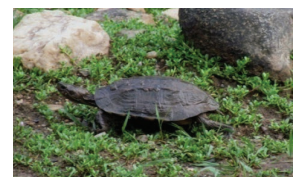


*Chamaeleo zeylanicus*



*Daboia russelii*

Considering the herpetofaunal diversity of SACON campus area, species richness is higher in the case of reptiles compared to amphibians and this might be due to the lack of sufficient water bodies nearby. A total of 40 species of reptiles have been observed in and around SACON campus, which consists of 14 families including one species of turtle, 15 species of lizards and 24 species of snakes. The latter include four species (*Naja naja*, *Bungarus caeruleus*, *Daboia russelii*, *Echis carinatus*) of the the 'Big Five' of the region's venomous snakes . The Indian Rock Python (*Python molurus*) is listed in Schedule 1 of Wildlife protection act 1972. About 58 species of reptiles were reported by Mukherjee in 2007 from Anaikatty Hills including the newly described *Cnemaspis anaikattiensis* (Mukherjee et al 2005) and *Lycodon flavicollis* (Mukherjee et al 2007). The amphibians recorded from SACON campus includes only eight species of anurans (Frogs). Of these *Duttaphrynus melanostictus*, *Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis* and *Uperdon systema* are reportedly the most common species (Mukherjee 2007, PhD Thesis).



*Melanochelys trijuga trijuga*



*Oligodon taeniolatus*



*Macropisthodon plumbicolor*



*Hemidactylus triedrus*

(Photos : Madhumita Panigrahi)

## Check-list of reptiles

Sl No.	Family	Species	Common name
1	Geoemydidae	<i>Melanochelys trijuga trijuga</i>	Indian black turtle
2	Agamidae	<i>Calotes versicolor</i>	Indian garden lizard
3		<i>Calotes calotes</i>	Common green forest lizard
4		<i>Calotes ellioti</i>	Elliot's forest lizard
5		<i>Sitana ponticeriana</i>	Fan throated lizard
6		Chamaeleonidae	<i>Chamaeleo zeylanicus</i>
7	Gekkonidae	<i>Geckoella collegalensis</i>	Kollegal ground gecko
8		<i>Cnemaspis mysorensis</i>	Mysore day gecko
9		<i>Hemidactylus brookii</i>	Brook's house gecko
10		<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	Asian house gecko
11		<i>Hemidactylus leschenaultia</i>	Bark gecko
12		<i>Hemidactylus triedrus</i>	Termite hill gecko
13		Scincidae	<i>Lygosoma punctata</i>
14	<i>Eutropis macularia</i>		Bronze grass skink
15	<i>Eutropis carinata</i>		Common keeled skink
16	Varanidae	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>	Bengal monitor
17	Typhlopidae	<i>Indotyphlops braminus</i>	Brahminy worm snake
18	Uropeltidae	<i>Uropeltis ellioti</i> sp.*	Elliot's shieldtail
19	Boidae	<i>Eryx johnii</i>	Red sand boa
20		<i>Eryx conica</i>	Whitaker's boa
21	Pythonidae	<i>Python molurus</i>	Indian rock python
22	Colubridae	<i>Ahaetulla nasuta</i>	Common vine snake
23		<i>Chrysopelia ornata</i>	Ornate flying snake
24		<i>Boiga forsteni</i>	Forsten's cat snake
25		<i>Boiga nuchalis</i>	Collared cat snake
26		<i>Boiga trigonata</i>	Common cat snake
27		<i>Coelognathus helena helena</i>	Common trinket snake
28		<i>Dendrelaphis tristis</i>	Common bronzeback tree snake
29		<i>Liopeltis calamaria</i>	Lesser stripe-necked snake
30		<i>Lycodon aulicus</i>	Common wolf snake
31		<i>Oligodon arnensis</i>	Common kukri snake
32		<i>Oligodon taeniolatus</i>	Russell's kukri snake
33		<i>Ptyas mucosa</i>	Indian Rat snake
34		<i>Sibynophis subpunctatus</i>	Dumeril's black-headed snake
35		Natricidae	<i>Macropisthodon plumbicolor</i>
36	<i>Xenochrophis piscator</i>		Checkered keelback
37	Elapidae	<i>Bungarus caeruleus</i>	Common Indian krait
38		<i>Naja naja</i>	Spectacled cobra
39	Viperidae	<i>Daboia russelii</i>	Russell's viper
40		<i>Echis carinatus carinatus</i>	Saw-scaled viper

\**Uropeltis ellioti* is a species complex

## List of Amphibians

Sl.No	Scientific name	Common name
1	<i>Duttaphrynus melanostictus</i>	Common Indian Toad
2	<i>Euphlyctis cyanophlyctis</i>	Common Skittering Frog
3	<i>Hoplobatrachus tigerinus</i>	Indian Bull Frog
4	<i>Fejervarya sp.*</i>	-
5	<i>Sphaerotheca breviceps</i>	Indian Burrowing Frog
6	<i>Indirana sp.*</i>	-
7	<i>Microhyla rubra</i>	Red Narrow Mouthed Frog
8	<i>Uperodon systoma</i>	Marbled Balloon Frog

\* Un-identified

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Debanik Mukherjee 2007. *Resource utilization patterns of reptiles in the tropical dry mixed deciduous forest of Anaikatty Hills, Western Ghats, India*. PhD thesis submitted to Bharathiar University.

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## PHOTO-DOCUMENTATION OF ELEPHANTS VISITING SACON CAMPUS

The Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) is an endangered mammal according to IUCN Red data book. It inhabits a range of forest types from thorny scrub to evergreen and montane evergreen forests (Vidya et.al, 2005). Free-ranging elephants depend on a larger landscape for movement and foraging. Their ranging is highly influenced by the availability of water (Fernando et.al., 2008; Stokke and du Toit, 2002 and Sukumar, 1989) and vegetation. According to Sukumar (2003), Indian sub-continent inhabits a larger proportion of these animals but face severe threat by humans due to habitat loss, fragmentation, capturing for domestication and ivory poaching.



**Chinna Thambi** : Lone male with divergent tusks, aged about 50 years, with a height of approximately 10 feet. Extremely calm in human presence. Moves close to human habitation.

The elephant population of India is divided into 4 viz. a. northern b. north-eastern c. central Indian and d. southern Indian population (Vidya et.al., 2005). South Indian population is further divided into 4 sub-populations of which the Nilgiri sub-population is considered as the 'world's single largest contiguous population' (AERCC, 1998).

SACON campus adjoining Anaikatty Reserve Forest is a part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve which witnesses regular movement of elephants. The presence of several man-made tanks in and around the campus attracts elephants especially during the evening hours. Two groups of elephants, one with 11 individuals and the other with 9 individuals, regularly visit the campus mainly for water. Additionally there is also the presence of 2 lone males, frequent visitors to the campus.

In view of the global threats especially poaching, there is an increasing need to document the presence and movement of tusker elephants in every area inhabited by elephants as they could act as an indicator for the hunting pressure in a landscape. It is relatively easy to identify elephants with tusks due to their distinguishing and unique physical characteristics. This article is a localized attempt to photo-document tusker elephants which visit the SACON campus.

**Goundamani/Periya thambi** : A lone male with divergent tusks; around 30 years of age with a height of around 11 feet. Infamous among villagers for crop raiding, a known killer responsible for many human deaths and casualties. No confirmed reports on its presence in the campus vicinity for more than two years.



**Vivek** : Leader of an 11 member group; aged 40-45 years and 12-13 feet tall. Highly temperamental towards human presence and avoids encounter.

**Vadivel** : Member of 9 member group. 12-15 years age and 8-9ft tall. Highly temperamental towards human presence.

**Santhanam** : Member of the 9 member group. About 10-15 years old and about 7-8 feet tall. Timid and shy of human presence.

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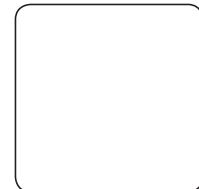
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