



# A camera-trap record of a Crab-eating Mongoose *Herpestes urva* from the Indian portion of the Terai Arc Landscape in Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary, north-west India

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## Abstract

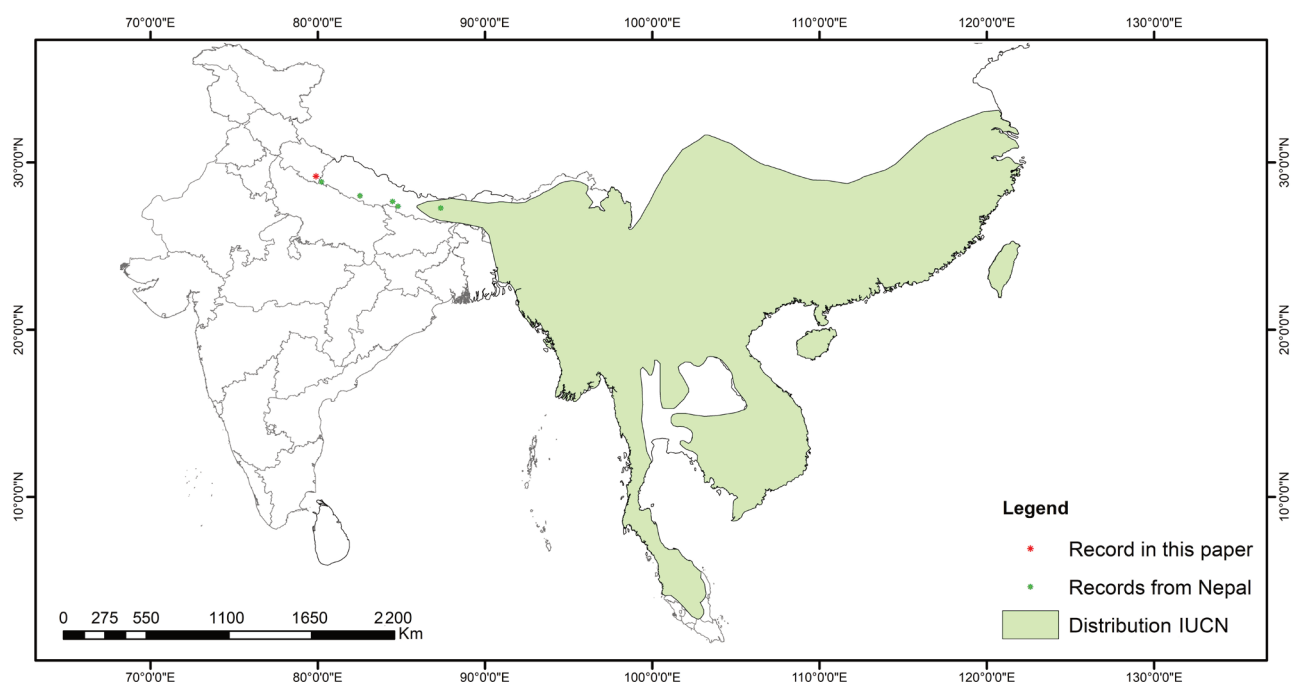
A Crab-eating Mongoose *Herpestes urva* was camera-trapped in Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary, Uttarakhand state, India, on 15 March 2021. This locality lies within the Indian portion of the Terai Arc Landscape and represents the westernmost known distribution of the species.

**Keywords:** Herpestidae, *Sal* forest, grasslands, Nepal, *Urva urva*

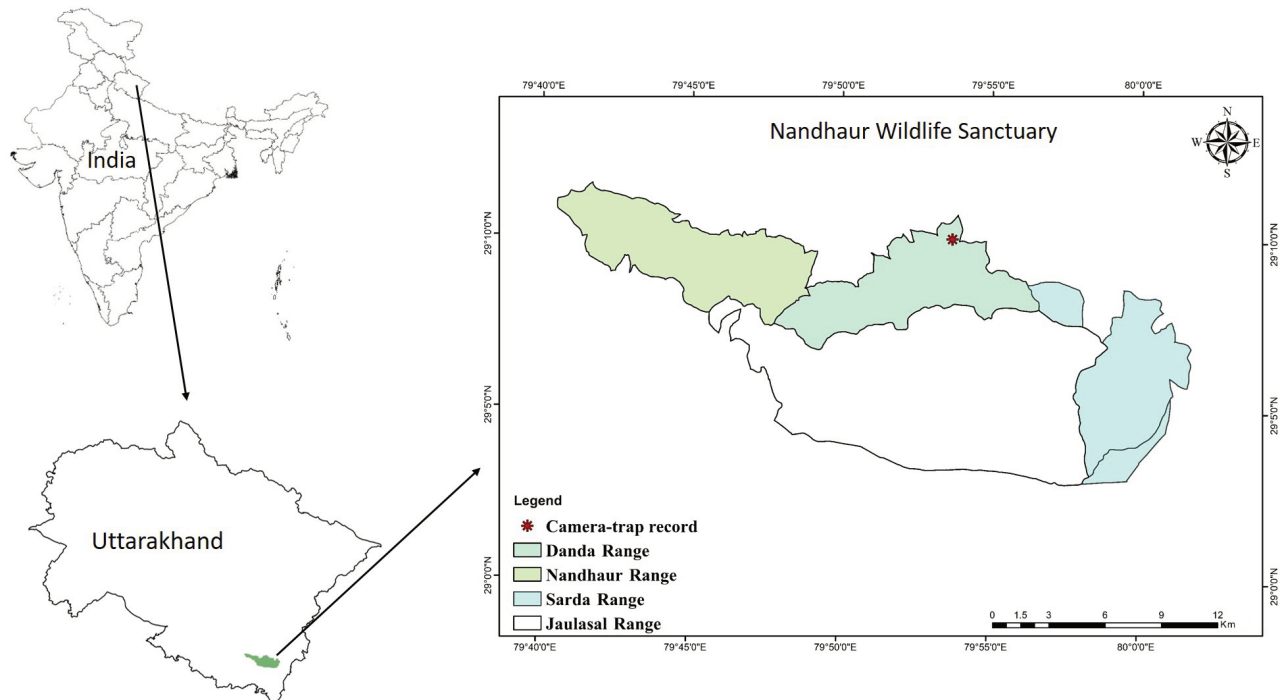
In India, Crab-eating Mongoose *Herpestes urva* has been widely reported from the north-eastern states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and West Bengal (Menon 2003, Datta et al. 2008, Sinha & Das 2012, Choudhury et al. 2015). It has not been reported from the northern and north-western states of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand; these three states contain the Indian portion of the Terai Arc Landscape (Semwal 2005). In Nepal, it has been recorded from many protected areas in the Terai Arc Landscape, including Bardia National Park, Chitwan National Park, Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, Parsa National Park and Suklaphanta National Park (Jnawali et al. 2011, Sharma & Lamichhane 2017) along with other localities

such as Dang, Pokhara, Gorkha, Kaski and Tanahu districts (Fig. 1) (Thapa 2013, Bhusal et al. 2022).

As part of a Tiger *Panthera tigris* monitoring programme, 66 pairs of camera-traps (each pair in a 2×2 km grid) were placed in three forest ranges (Nandhaur, Danda and Sarda) in Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary (Fig. 2) for a total survey effort of 2640 camera-trap nights. A Crab-eating Mongoose was camera-trapped on 15 March 2021 at 09h23 (Fig. 3). The camera-trap station was near the Durgapeepal forest rest house in the Danda Forest Range of the sanctuary at an altitude of 436 m asl (29°10'1.70"N, 79°53'42"E) near the junction of a tall, wet grassland and a swamp. The grassland was dominated by



**Fig. 1.** Distribution map of Crab-eating Mongoose *Herpestes urva* (modified from Choudhury et al. 2015).



**Fig. 2.** Map of Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary, Terai Arc Landscape, India. A red asterisk indicates the location of the Crab-eating Mongoose *Herpestes urva* camera-trap record.

*Phragmites karka* and *Saccharum spontaneum*, with a few *Lantana camara* bushes and scattered individual trees, such as *Bombax ceiba* and *Shorea robusta*. Several tributaries (nallas) of the Nandhaur river confluences are located near the camera-trap station.

This is the first known record of Crab-eating Mongoose from the Indian portion of the western Terai as well as from Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary. The nearest known record is from Shukla Phanta National Park in Nepal, about 50 km east of the record documented in this note. The record from Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary therefore represents the westernmost known distribution of Crab-eating Mongoose.



**Fig. 3.** A Crab-eating Mongoose *Herpestes urva* camera-trapped on 15 March 2021 in Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary, Terai Arc Landscape, India. (Photo: WII-UKFD-ZSL research team.)

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