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SHORT COMMUNICATION

## Distribution of *Tetracerus quadricornis* (Four-horned antelope) in Similipal Tiger Reserve, Odisha, India

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### ABSTRACT

During the camera trap exercise for the Tiger and Leopard monitoring, 42 number of Chousingha (*Tetracerus quadricornis*) were recorded from three different grid cell of Similipal Tiger Reserve, Odisha. The present camera trapping study confirmed the presence of *T. quadricornis* in the study area. The present study highlights the distribution pattern of the species in Similipal Tiger Reserve, Odisha, India.

Habitat use is the way an animal uses physical and biological resources. Habitat selection by species can be considered as a multi-level hierarchical process. At the landscape level, the *T. quadricornis* uses tropical dry deciduous forest habitat. Recent studies also indicate that its abundance and distribution is considerably affected by habitat change because of local and landscape level factors. However, even in forest patches typified as tropical dry deciduous, the distribution of *T. quadricornis* is often not uniform. Several environmental, anthropogenic and ecological

variables were believed to govern the spatial and distribution of the *T. quadricornis* within a tropical dry deciduous forest. *T. quadricornis* is found in undulating terrain, distribution is limited by water and within well-wooded forest patches (Brander 1923; Prater 1980; Rahmani 2001). During early, 1970s the *T. quadricornis* occurred in Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in open woodlands along the edge of valleys to the south. During the survey in Bachurichara valley in 1972, two *T. quadricornis* were sighted and in May 1973, five dung-hepas were found (Choudhury 1974). From November

1987 to January 2002, information on *T. quadricornis* was collected through different sources like direct sighting and indirect evidences. The recorded sights were Nigirdha-Panasia, Dhudruchampa, Sunopokhari, Devasthali, Nuagaon, Tarinivilla of STR. Hence, keeping all above in view, an attempt has been made to analyze the distribution of *T. quadricornis* in STR. Standard method of Camera Trapping (Meek et al. 2014) was carried out to capture the photos of *T. quadricornis* during 2016 to 2017. The location of each photo capture of *T. quadricornis* was recorded and mapped to understand the distribution of *T. quadricornis* in STR, Odisha, India. The results revealed that authors captured 42 photos of *T. quadricornis*. It was observed that highest photos (16) were captured in Pithabata followed by Satkosia (11), Kaptipada (05), Nawana (05), Chahala (02), Dudhiani (02) and Hadgarh (01). The present study provides first photographic distributional pattern of *T. quadricornis* in STR (Table 1; Figure 1, Figure 2 & Figure 3) and recommend conserving the food plants and associate flora & fauna.

### Acknowledgement

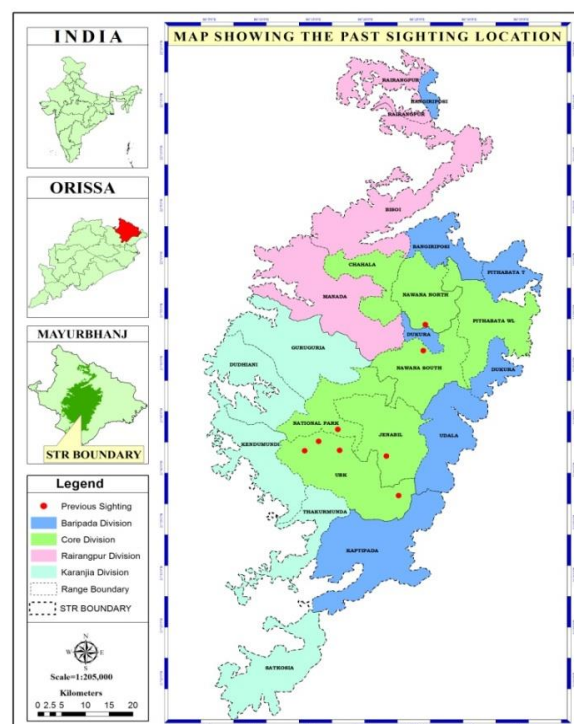
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**Table 1:** Territorial Range of *Tetracerus quadricornis* in STR

| Range        | No of Photo Captured |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Dudhiani     | 02                   |
| Hadgarh      | 01                   |
| Kaptipada    | 05                   |
| Nawana-North | 05                   |
| Pithabata(T) | 16                   |
| Chahala      | 02                   |
| Satkosia     | 11                   |



**Figure 1:** Showing the study area & distribution (Past) of *T. quadricornis* in STR



**Figure 2:** *T. quadricornis* captured through camera trapping methods in STR

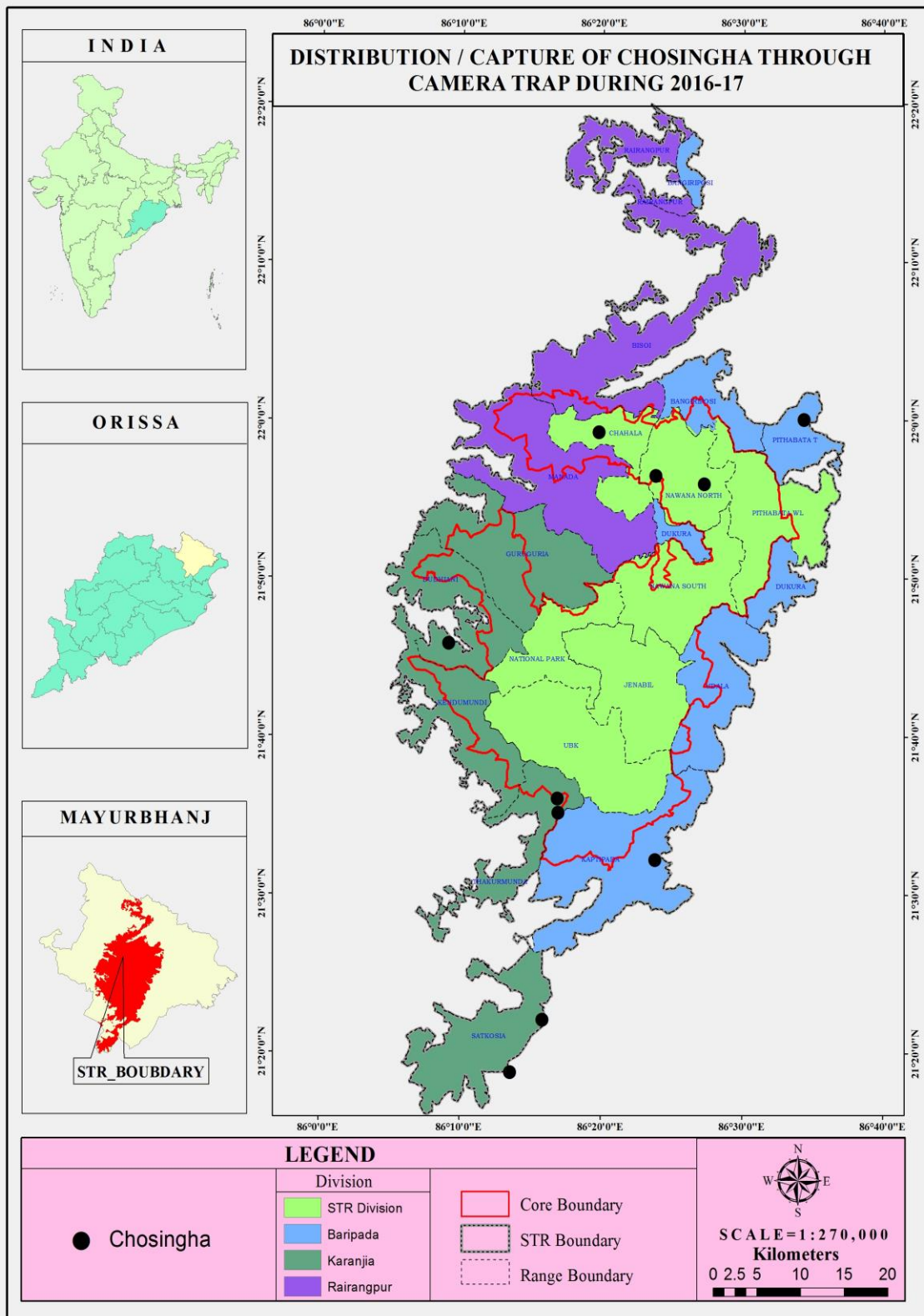


Figure 3: Showing the study area & distribution (Present) of *T. quadricornis* in STR