

D-35 : SOME ASPECTS OF SMALL MAMMALS IN
HORTON PLAINS NATIONAL PARK

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A study was carried out in Horton Plains National Park, from May to September 1991, to obtain site specific information on small mammals. This included species composition, habitat preference, home range, and population density of small mammals. Different habitats such as Natural forest, Disturbed forest, Natural grassland, Disturbed grassland & Swampy grassland were considered during the study. Each sampling period lasted for 7 days & 6 sessions were carried out.

Non removal trapping method, using 100 Sherman traps with fried coconut & fried dry fish as baits was used and the trapping configuration was the line transect. Identification was done according to Checklist and Keys by John F. Eisenberg & George M McKay.

The results on species composition & habitat preference are reported here. There are 7 species of small mammals namely *Rattus rattus kelaarti*, *Ceolomys mayori*, *Millardia meltada*, *Srilankamys ohiensis*, *Golunda ellioti nuwara*, *Suncus murinus montanus* and *Funambulus palmarum*.

Millardia meltada is recorded for the first time in Horton Plains and the central hill zone. *Rattus rattus kelaarti* & *Ceolomys mayori mayori* were the dominant species in the study site.

No small mammal was recorded from the disturbed open grassland (subject to potato cultivation). Five species were recorded from forests and three species from natural grasslands, *Golunda ellioti nuwara* was confined only to swampy grasslands.