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**Behaviour and diurnal activity of *Sexicoloides fulvicata leucoptera* (black robin)**

Ad-libitum and focal-animal behaviour sampling was used to construct an ethogram for the behaviour of black robin. The study was done during July through October 2000, in a selected intermediate zone habitat at Buttala.

Present study recorded a total of 65 behaviour types or events, which categorised in to 12 categories of major behaviour patterns. These behaviour patterns included maintenance activities such as locomotion, ingestion (feeding), elimination, shelter-seeking and resting, cleaning, communication, and thermoregulation patterns, agonistic behaviours such as intra specific agonistic patterns and interactions with other species, reproductive behaviour patterns, including the territorial display which is peculiar to it. Some reproductive behaviour such as courtship and mating behaviour patterns could not be studied since the research was done in the post-breeding season.

Time budget and diurnal activity of black robin were studied using 84 instantaneous behaviour samples. Time budget studies show that the order of the percentage time spent on major behaviour patterns as highest in locomotion then on perching feeding, resting, cleaning and other patterns. Activity of black robin was low in midday than that of morning and evening. The peak activity and least activity were recorded around 17:30h and 1:30 h respectively. Its activity had an inverse relationship with the environmental temperature and a direct relationship with the relative humidity.

It was determined that there was no significant difference between the activity of male and female of black robins except for perching in the evening where the female spent much time than the male.