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**Population distribution of *Trachypithecus vetulus philbricki* in selected forest patches of the dry zone**

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Sri Lanka and the Western Ghats of India have together been identified as one of the 25 'biodiversity hotspots' in the world. Primates are an important component of this region's biodiversity. The dry zone Purple faced leaf monkey is a subspecies (*Trachypithecus vetulus philbricki*) endemic to Sri Lanka. There are few quantitative data on the *T. v. philbricki* in Sri Lanka. The most important issue for conservation of the *T. v. philbricki* is to identify distribution patterns within the remaining dry zone forest patches such as in the Ritigala Strict Nature Reserve, Mihintale and Kokkabe forest. Our research aims were to determine the population size and the threats to *T. v. philbricki* in the fragmented forest patches in the Anuradhapura District and update their distribution map. A population study was carried out by direct counting and using vocal sounds. Fixed permanent line transects were used for data collection of the population. Diurnal behavioral data were recorded using scan sampling, photographs and videos obtained in the field. A total of nine troops including 92 individuals were recorded during the study period (between November 2011 and May 2012). Of the nine, four troops were sighted in Ritigala (43 individuals), three troops inhabited the Mihintale sanctuary (28 individuals) and two troops were sighted in the Kokkembe hill (21 individuals). The group sizes were 8 - 10, 3 - 10 and 6 - 10 in Ritigala SNR, Mihintale and Kokkabe forest respectively. The major diurnal activities were resting, moving, and feeding. Of these activities the dry zone purple faced leaf monkey spent the maximum time on feeding (48%) on the trees and ground floor, while 34% was spent on moving and 18% on resting. *T.v.philbricki* frequently consumed three species namely *Ficus* sp. *Manilkara hexandra* and *Drypetes sepiaria*. Major threats to this species were illegal hunting and destruction of their habitats for Chena cultivation and various other types of agricultural and development projects.