

FIRST RECORD OF *GOLUNDA ELLIOTI GUJERATI*
THOMAS (RODENTIA : MURIDAE : MURINAE)
FROM MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

By

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While conducting general faunistic survey in Thane Dist. of Maharashtra State, an interesting rodent species was collected and identified as *Golunda ellioti gujerati* Thomas which turned out to be hitherto unreported from the state. Thus, this communication is intended to report the extended distribution of this taxon in this state.

The specimens were collected from the Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra's Nursery at Kasa. Kasa is situated in the northern part of Western Ghat from where the Gujrat border is about fifty kilometers away. The plant Nursery has an area of about thirty five hectares where mostly the teak, subabul and *Acacia* spp. are being raised. It is surrounded by the paddy fields from almost all the sides. The Nursery authorities have informed that this rodent species has almost invaded the region since last so many years as a menacing pest, causing a serious damage to the young sapplings of teak and other plant species. The literature reveals that *Golunda ellioti* is being represented in Maharashtra by the subspecies, *G. e. ellioti* Gray. *G. e. gujerati* Thomas has been reported from Saurashtra and above (cf. Lunva, Palanpur, Mt. Abu) (Ellerman, 1961). Agrawal and Chakraborty (1982) recently reported the retention of *G. e. gujerati* Thomas as a separate subspecies on the basis of ventral coloration and longish tail. The details of the specimens are given below. All measurements (in mm.) were taken in the field.

Material : 1 adult ♂, Z.S.I., Regd. No. v/256, in alcohol and 1 adult ♀, Z.S.I., Regd. No. V/457, Rolled specimen.

Locality : F.D.C.M., Nursery Kasa, Dist. Thane, Maharashtra State. Date : 9 March 1984. Collector : Dr. M.S. Pradhan ; collection deposited in the National Zoological Collection of India, Z.S.I., W.R.S., Pune. Measurements : External : ♂ : HB :—135 ; Tl :—Cut ; HF :—29 ; E :—18. ♀ : HB :—122 ; Tl :—105 ; HF :—26 ; E :—16. Cranial : ♀ : on :—30.46 ; cb :—28.06 ; n :—9.7 ; pl :—15.32 ; bul : 5.52 ; mtr : 6.08 ; apf :—4.86 ; dst :—8.04 ; mdbl :—16.62. ♂ skull damaged.

Remarks : The dorsal colour of the specimens is blackish brown while the ventral side is much lighter (Yellowish white). The tail is distinctly bicolored. The ventral coloration of the specimens distinctly put them in *G. ellioti gujerati* Thomas. The blood samples of these specimens were collected for haemoglobin studies on PAGE. The studies have revealed that the haemoglobin of *G. ellioti gujerati* Thomas specimens shows similarity in the electrophoretic mobilities with those of *Mus* species. However, confirmation will require collection of more specimens of *G. ellioti gujerati* Thomas. The results are being compiled and will be reported separately.

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