

FATIMA MATA NATIONAL COLLEGE

AUTONOMOUS

(Reaccredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC)

Affiliated to University of Kerala



3.6.3 Nature Camp Report 2017

IQAC INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY



NATURE CAMP 17 MARCH 2017

PARAMBIKULAM TIGER RESERVE

Parambikulam wildlife sanctuary is a place exclusively for wildlife enthusiasts and nature lovers who like a bit of adventure. Many animals and birds were spotted during the visit. But there is no guarantee that this will happen always. The best part about the sanctuary is the activities they have to offer. Trekking, camping and bamboo rafting are very interesting. We were lucky enough to get an opportunity to enjoy trekking, accompanied by the forest guides. Safari ride is also quite good but since the road are not great, it might be a very bumpy ride. The accommodation facilities were spot on. As we were on the nature camp package , every facilities there was free of cost.

The journey started on 17 March 2017 in the evening at 6:30pm, comprising 13 students 2 teachers and the driver.

18 March 2017

It took almost 9 hour to reach the first check post. We had to wait till 7.00 to gain entry. Then there was a second check post where we had to verify the necessary paper to proceed our journey. The place is no entry for any private vehicle unless you have a special booking with the forest department.

We were provided with two guides MrSreedharan and MrSanoj both belonging to the local tribes. We were informed that we would have a trekking after our breakfast. They have a schedule for everything, so being punctual counts, the treks was amazing, we managed to spot Sambars, Malabar Gaint squirrel, spotted deer , languor peacock and many bother birds.The trek started at 10.00am and lasted up to 2.00pm in the afternoon. We walked through the moist deciduous forest. After walking 3 kms we entered the ever green forest. This part trail is locally known as **Karianchola**. Most of the trekking was focused on the **Anappadi**region. We also walked along the dried basins of **Karinchanthodu**. We could not spot tigers but did managed to see their paw prints andfaeces. We were also able to spot faeces of bear porcupine and leopard. We also saw the scratched marking done by the tiger as a part of its territory marking.

Then at 4.00pm in the evening we went on safari. Safari was in our own vehicle. The guards showed us the dam Thunakkadavu and the

Parambilulamdam through which the river flows to form the Alliyar falls. At Thunakkadavu, the guide explained about four mountain ranges that can be spotted at Parambikulam- Sungam, Parambikulam, Orukomban and Karimala, 3 peaks that are found in this reserve are Karimalagopuram, Pandaramalai, Vengolimalai. Among these 3, Karimalagopuram is the highest one and has 2 mountains named Viravi and Kalyani. When we look at the Karimalagopuram range, it looks as if a pregnant lady is lying down. From there it is a drive to the named teak tree, the only original one remaining in a 70 year old plantation. The **Kannimara teak** which is said to be Asia's largest and one of world's oldest teak trees. It has a girth of 6.52 metres and height of 48.25 metres. It is a grand view. What gives the tree a mystery shade is that according to the tribal people, once that tree was tried to be felled by the Government. But it bled when some roots were cut and the wood cutters were dead. After that they started worshipping it as a manifestation of god and was called as Virgin tree or Kannimara teak tree. It was awarded with MahaVrikshaPuraskar in 1994-1995. As we were heading back from there, it started raining. Due to heavy downpour, we were not able to see the premises properly.

19 March 2017

Next day, early morning we went for bird watching. When in the jungle the golden rule is to keep your mouth shut and to keep your ears and eyes wide open, and will

be rewarded. We did and we spotted Racket tailed drongo, Golden oreo Jungle warbler, Shikra, Water crow, Paradise fly catcher, Malabar whistling thrush, Great hornbill, Fishing eagle, Indian roller, and Spotted dove . Birds like the Wayanad Whistling thrush and Racket tailed Drongo, which are a rarity elsewhere, can be spotted without much fuss in Parambikulam. We also spotted Otters, Sambar deer and Spotted deer. We also saw some breath taking views of hills and rivers while we were bird watching.

After the session, we had a Quiz Competition. We were asked questions on all the things we learnt at Parambikulam. The winners were MsKanni J Mohan and MsMegha M.

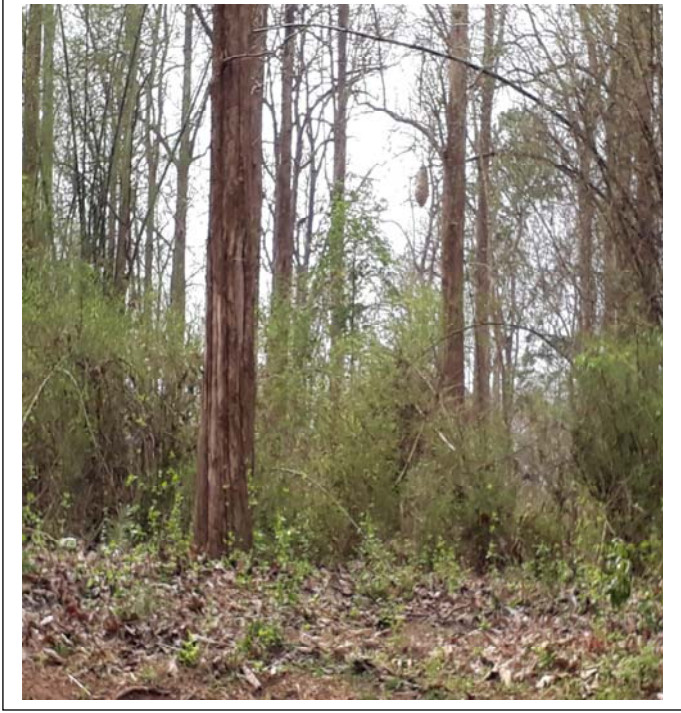


Figure 12: Kannimara Teak

