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## Unusual sighting of four horned antelope (*Tetraceros quadricornis*) at Similipal tiger reserve by camera trap

**Sandeep Ranjan Mishra, HK Bisht and JD Pati**

### Abstract

During early 1970s the four-horned Antelope occurred in Similipal in open woodlands along the edge of large Valleys to the south. During a reconnaissance survey in Bachurichara valley in May 1972, two FHAs were seen and in May 1973 five dung-heaps were found. From November 1987 to January 2002 information on Chousingha was collected through different sources. These are from direct observations of Chousingha, observations of their dung heaps and second-hand information made available by staff through their diary.

**Keywords:** Four-horned Antelope, Similipal Tiger Reserve, Camera Trapping

### Introduction

Four-horned Antelope is included under Schedule I of the wildlife (protection) Act, 1972 [1]. Prater [2] mentioned the distribution of Chousingha or Four-horned Antelope (FHA) *Tetraceros quadricornis* as peninsular India south of the Himalaya where the country is wooded and hilly, but not too densely forested, and that it was not found on the Malabar Coast [3]. Reported that the range of Chousingha extends from the Terai forests and Jammu to Mudumalai Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu, though in the past it was reported even in the Palani Hills, and it occurs in the Barda and Gir forests of Gujarat, extending east wards to Bihar. The State of Orissa is known to have populations of FHA in Badrama Sanctuary, Chandaka Dampada Sanctuary, Kotagarh Sanctuary, Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary and Similipal Sanctuary as per the available information of Odisha Forest Department.

### Result and Discussion

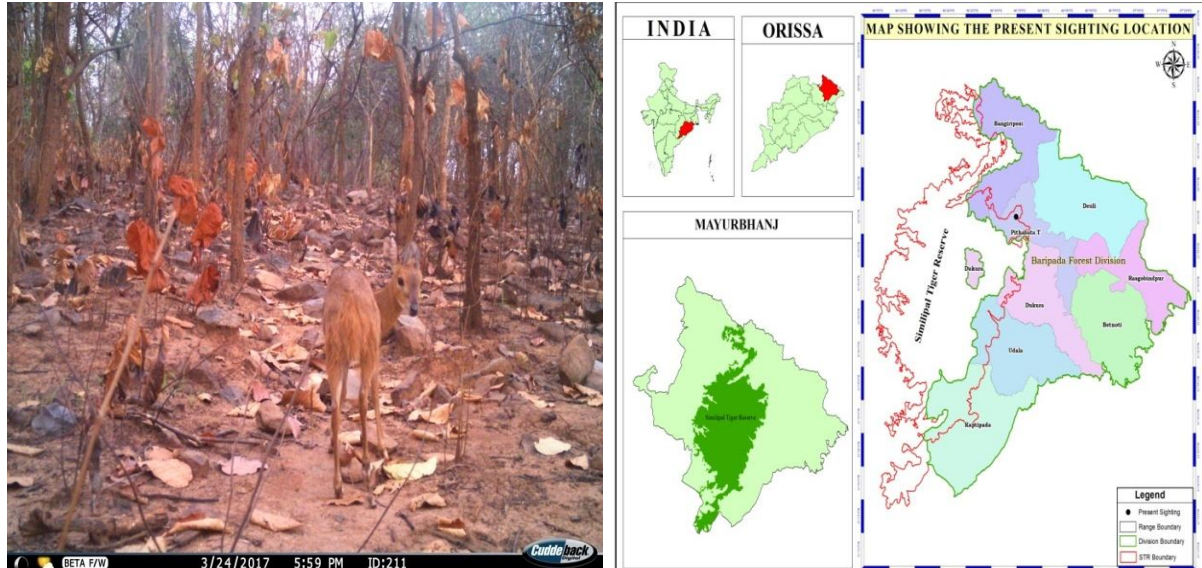
During early 1970s the four-horned Antelope occurred in Similipal in open woodlands along the edge of large Valleys to the south [4]. During a reconnaissance survey in Bachurichara valley in May 1972, two FHAs were seen and in May 1973 five dung-heaps were found. From November 1987 to January 2002 information on Chousingha was collected through different sources. These are from direct observations of Chousingha, observations of their dung heaps and second-hand information made available by staff through their diary. Chousingha sighted near Nigirda-Panasia stretch in central Similipal and near Bachhurichara Valley in the South. Other information include their availability near Panasia, Dhudruchampa, western part of Sunpokhri, Tarinivilla, Nuagon, Devasthali, Patbil and Bhanjabasa. Dung heaps are best seen in Bachhurichara and Debasthali valleys. All the locations represent the south-central and southern parts of the core zone of similipal Tiger Reserve.

After 2002 there was no significant record of FHA in Similipal Tiger Reserve. On 24.3.17 at 6 PM a four-horned antelope was captured in camera at Haldibani Beat under Baripada forest Division during camera trap exercise in Similipal Tiger Reserve. This is the first camera trap evidence of FHA which indicates present existence of the species in Similipal Tiger Reserve. More study, research and conservation initiative is required for better survival of the species in this Tiger Reserve.

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**Fig:** Photograph of Four Horned Antelope by Camera Trap and map of location site.

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