

ABSTRACT

Chashma Barrage wildlife sanctuary has been largely unexplored regarding mammals study. Hence there is a need to study the diversity, status and ecology of mammals in the region. The current study has been designed to develop baseline data about diversity and distribution of mammals, state of habitat and also to identify any threats to the existing mammals in the area. During the field survey (January, 2022 to September, 2022) various direct and indirect methods and techniques were used such as interviews, Howling Record Method, Tracks counts and Pellet counts, trails, fecal material, dead animal remains, Sherman traps, spot lights, and mist nets. Five types of habitats were identified including Wetlands (river canals and lakes), Floodplains/Bela, Urban Areas with Associated Agricultural Lands, Stony Plains and Hilly Area, Sand Dunes and Semi Desert Areas. Total 23 species of mammals were recorded during the present study. Out of these 23 species of mammals, 7 species were found to be Large Mammals belonging to two orders, five families and five genera and 16 species of Small Mammals belong to four orders, eight families and 14 genera were recorded. In large mammals Asiatic Jackal was the most abundant one because of the absence of top carnivore and in small mammal's order Rodentia dominated the list. Generally, no top consumers were recorded.

Keywords: Mammals, Habitat, Diversity, Population, Fauna