

ATTACK BY A NEST-GUARDING FEMALE MUGGER (*Crocodylus palustris*)

At 6 a.m. on 8.3.82 the 35 year old Gurkha watchman, Bhagat Ram was routinely checking nest temperatures in Breeding Pit 8 at the Crocodile Bank. Female mugger "Anara" was in the water watching Bhagat Ram as he squatted to insert the thermometer into the PVC tube buried into the nest for the purpose. He is an experienced crocodile worker and as usual had a stout stick with him. As he describes it, he turned away from Anara for a second while he checked the temperature and the next thing he knew she had his right lower leg in her jaws. He threw notebook, thermometer and stick on her head and she fortunately let go without shaking or rolling.

The bite resulted in 5 deep punctures in the calf and shin, one which required 4 stitches to close. He had tetanus and antibiotic injections and recovered rapidly with daily dressing changes and antibiotics.

No one ever doubted that nest guarding female crocs really mean business but this kind of sneak attack has perhaps not been sufficiently appreciated, are you listening Jeff, Ted, Basu, Binod et al ?

LEATHERBACK WASHED ASHORE ON MADRAS COAST

On 27th March '82 a dead leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) was washed ashore at Covelong some 17 kms south of Madras city and was found by fishermen at about 6.45 a.m. The turtle was torn open across the carapace and had probably been run over by a trawler.

It measured 2.5 meters across the carapace and the left front flipper measured 80 cms. The identification was confirmed by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute people who saw the specimen.

Ms. Reliable Ferret
MSPT

SNAKE SCATS AROUND MADRAS CITY

Of 11 scat samples collected by MSP on the outskirts of Madras city in Aug/Sep/Oct 81 5 had rodent remains which account for 45% of the samples.

Of the 5 samples, 4 are that of cobras and one of a rat snake. Rodent fur found in the scats include that of :

1. Bandicota bengalensis, the Indian mole rat, 50%
2. Tatera indica, Indian jerbil, 33%
3. Millardia melitada, the soft furred field rat 17%

All the scat samples were collected from near rice fields.