

Biology and propagation of common barking deer.

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ABSTRACT

The studies on biology and propagation of Common Barking Deer (*Muntiacus muntjak* Zimmermann, 1780) were undertaken from August, 1979 to September, 1981, at the Sakaerat Environmental Research Station, Amphur Pakthongchai, Nakhon Ratchasima Province. The natural feeding habit, food preference, daily activities, reproduction, growth and development of the young were conducted both in the captive with size 70 X 70 m. and in the natural forest.

Common Barking Deer feed on young leaves and falling fruits of many plants in Dry Dipterocarp Forest, Dry Evergreen Forest and Ecotone of these two forest type. By feeding in the captive, they prefer to browse *Bauhinia malabarica* Roxb., *Vites* sp., *Acrocarpus fraxinifolius* Wight & Arn., and *Acacia pennata* Willd., respectively in Dry Evergreen Forest and the Ecotone. The food preference were also studied of leaf plants and fruits in Dry Dipterocarp Forest, and it is found that they like eating some fruits of forest trees such as , *Spondias bipinnata* Airy Shaw & Forman, *Phyllanthus emblica* Linn., *Irvingia malayana* Oliv. Ex.A.Benn., *Canarium subulatum* Guill., and *Dillenia obovata* Hoogl.

Common Barking Deer are crepuscular with active mainly in the early morning. From the observation both in the captive and in the natural forest near the place of studies, they breed in winter or during November to March. The growth and development of the fawns were also studied in the captive. It was found the their weight are positive correlation with ages, while one of the five years adult female which was studied in the captive reach the maximum weight at about 25 kilograms.