Method for population control of Deer family by the physical separation of male and female deer at Lucknow zoo

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The surplus deer population is a major problem in most of the zoological parks in India. Surplus deer population is not required by the zoological gardens because zoo-bred wild animals cannot be released in wild as a routine matter and also there is not enough space in the zoos.

Over-crowding in zoos for any species causes many problems. In the present scenario the surplus deer population is particularly problematical for the reasons stated above.

As the deer population in Indian zoos is gradually increasing, they are much over-crowded in their limited area. As a result, morbidity and mortality rate is also increasing every year. At present there is no easy, safe, practical, specific and effective method available to control the surplus population. At Lucknow zoo we have adopted a method to check the population growth of Cheetal (Axis, axis) by physical separation of male and female animals which is described below :

"In an enclosure, which has around 100 spotted deer (about 30 males, 50 females and 20 fawns), we have been able to separate male and female in two different groups. We have divided deer enclosure in two parts by a channeling mesh having height of seven feet as shown in Figure No-1 and keeping all the deer in side No-2 as shown in the figure. A very small entrance gate was left open in between the channeling mash. The height and breath of the gate is 1.5 feet and 1.0 feet respectively as shown in the Figure no-2.

After one day we gave the animals feed in the side No-1 as shown in Figure No.1. As a result, all female and fawns crossed the small entrance gate but adult males could not cross the small entrance gate because of their large antlers worked as a physical barrier for them. Only 4 males having very small antler buds were able to cross the gate along with females and fawns. These 4 unwanted male deer were easily separated out with the help of chemical immobilization. This is the simplest method we have found for the separation of the adult male and female deer in two different groups. This method should be used in the season, when male deer having full antlers, however.

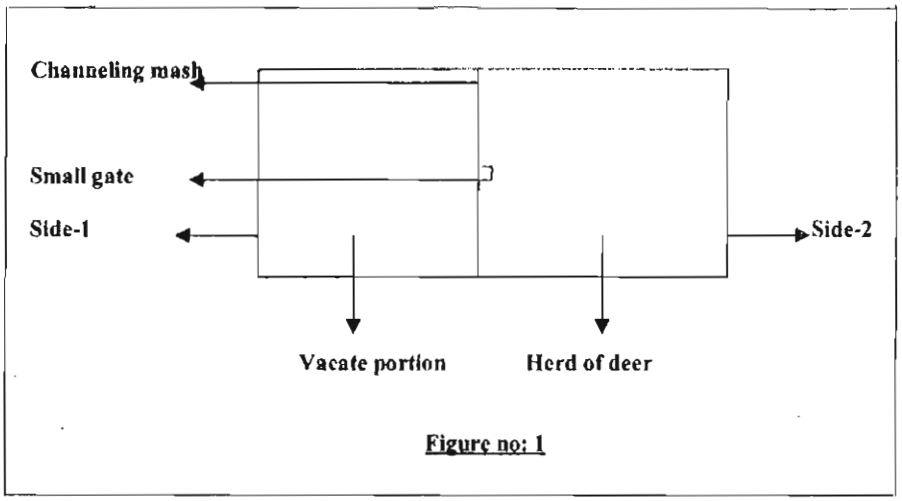


Figure no: 1

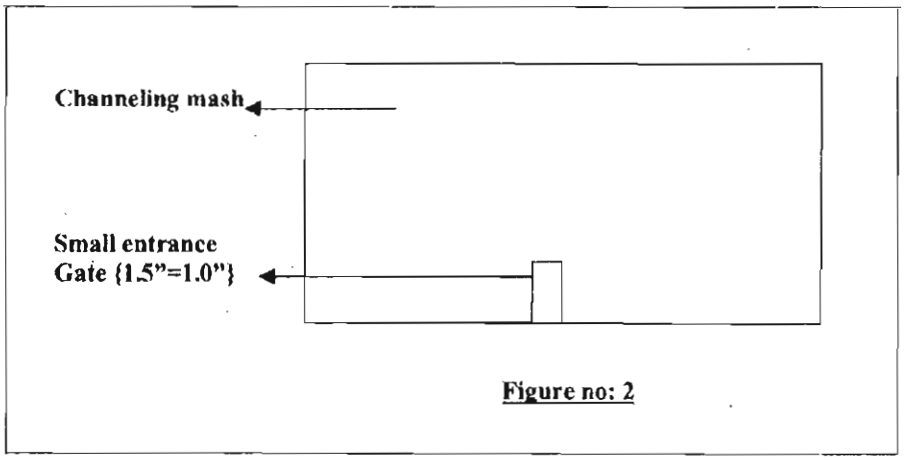
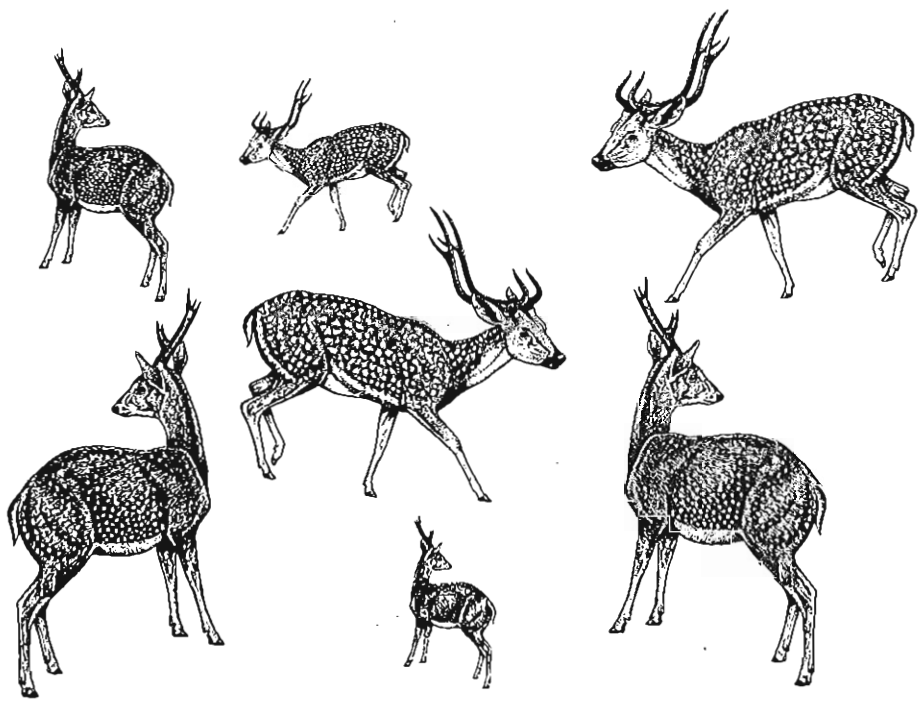


Figure no: 2



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