Breeding of Barasingha (*Cervus duvauceli duvauceli*) in Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad

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General note

This subspecies *(Cervus duvauceli duvauceli)* is present only in the terai areas of U.P., Assam and the Sunderbans. Its nearest cousin is *Cervus duvauceli branderi,* found in Madhya Pradesh with smaller well knit hooves. The terai race has splayed hooves and a larger skull. The skin coat is wheat brown, speckled with pale white spots. The antlers and lines are unique in Barasingha. The brow line is set at right angles to the beam and grows with an out ward curve. In terai, the Barasingha lives in marsh lands and mostly found in water . They are highly gregarious. They feed early in the morning and late in the evening. They have an acute sense of smell with moderate eyesight and hearing.

Stock in the Zoological Park

There is a herd of six (2 + 4) animals in The Nehru Zoological Park in a separate enclosure. The dimension of the enclosure are 90 mts X 60 mts. They are very wary and brisk animals. The following is the feed schedule of each animal :

Forenoon	Afternoon
Cattle feed - 750 grams. Peepal Leaves - 5 kgs. Chana - 250 gram. Carrot - 1 kg.	Green grass - 8 kgs. Lucerne - 3 kgs.

Mating activity was observed between one male and one female on 2/9/1999. On 15/5/2000 at 9-30a.m. one fawn (Male) was born. Gestation period was observed to be 8 months and 13 days. The fawn is dorsally a little dark brown in color with suffused black streak along the spine. Ventral side is yellowish white. There are white spots (as in Chital) dorsally. On the same day, in the evening, the fawn was found toddling and reconnoitering the kraal. It was also found periodically giving mewing calls. The Mother's udder was conspicuous, but not very prominent and it was suckling the fawn.

It was observed that the fawn was not as wary as the adult ones of the herd. It was found freely moving away from the group. but the mother and one sub adult male of the herd could be constantly watching the fawn. On 19/5/2000 evening , the fawn was found on lateral recumbency position, in one corner of the kraal, about 20 feet away from the herd. On 26/5/2000 the calf was observed to be quite active and moving with the herd.

Earlier matings:

Earlier, other females mated with the same male. The following are the details of fawns born in Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad:

Date of mating	Date of birth	Sex	Gestation period
## -10-97	27-06-98	Male	8 months and odd days.
13-02-98	18-10-98	Female	8 months & 5 days
21-11-98	14-08-99	Male	8 months and 24 days.

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