

Preservation of Indian Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) through skinning technique

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Abstract

The Indian gharial is also known as fish eating crocodile and it is longest of all living crocodilians. Through the skinning technique we can preserved the animal up to fifty years. This technique will be helpful to the taxidermist for educational purposes.

Introduction:

The Indian gharial is also known as fish eating crocodile and it is longest of all living crocodilians. The wild population Indian Gharial is decrease day by day due to habitat loss as well as killing by people for traditional medicine. The status of the animal as per the IUCN is Critically endangered and as per the wildlife protection act, 1972 is schedule –I animal. They are mainly found in river ganga, Indus, Brahmaputra Mahanadi of Northern, eastern India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. They are mainly remaining in large river with sand bank and is specialized fish eater. They nest on sand bank or alluvial deposits. They generally laying 7-60 eggs and incubation periods is 62 days. The diameter of egg as well as hatchlings are 59-64mm and 172-176mm, respectively (Das and Das,2018). Since there is very scanty literature in preservation of Indian Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*) through skinning technique for Taxidermy Study which one is utmost important for education purpose of future generation.

Methods of Skinning Technique:



First open the body of the Indian Gharial through mid-ventral incision (Fig.1) from the cloaca to the tip of the mouth. Then, removed the visceral content of the animal and paint the body cavity of the animal with mixture of 50% copper sulphate and 50% boric acid. Then, soak the cotton in 10% formalin (Fig.2) and kept inside the body cavity of the animal. Then suture the animal by black bladed silk and injected 10% formalin into the body of the animal. Then, kept the animal for sun drying for period of three months.



Fig.1: Photograph showing the mid-ventral incision (Black arrow) after removal of visceral content from the body of the Indian Gharial.



Fig.2: Photograph showing the cloaca (red arrow), cotton staff (white arrow) and tip of the mouth (yellow arrow) of the Indian Gharial.

Conclusions:

This method of preservation will be helpful to the students of biological science for education purposes. It will be helpful to students in genomic and taxidermy study in future.

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