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## **Study Tour/ Field Collection Trip report**

The department of Zoology conducted a study tour for its 1<sup>st</sup> semester students on 27 June 2017. The aim of the tour was to get the students acquainted with the trout farming in Jammu and Kashmir state and also to observe wildlife and to collect some common wild fauna belonging to arthropods (Insects, spiders, chilopods, diplopods etc) and reptiles. The students were accompanied by the head department of Zoology Dr. Shamim Ah. Dar, Dr. Mohd Feroz (Sr. Asstt. Prof. ), Farooq Ahmad (Asstt. Prof.), Shamas Din (Asstt. Prof.), Dr. Rumysa Khaliq (Cont. Lecturer) and other staff members. The tour team left at 8.00 am sharp from the college campus and proceeded towards Mammar fish farm which was the first halt. The students had an interaction with the staff members of the fish farm who demonstrated them all the systems regarding trout farming like, trout seed collection, rearing, preparation of raceways, their periodical maintenance, rearing and marketing of trout at the farm. The students also clarified their queries and after full satisfaction the team proceeded towards their next destination (Sonamarg) for the collection of wild fauna and to visit Thajwas wild life sanctuary. Before entering the Thajwas wild life sanctuary the team visited the nearby area of Sonamarg for collection of wild fauna. After reaching the site for the collection of insects and various wild fauna the students had a brief demonstration from Dr. Mohd Feroz, regarding the collection, transportation, preservation and labelling of collected fauna in wild, after that the students were divided into several groups headed by a faculty member and visited different sites for the collection of fauna. After thorough searching one group of the students collected a specimen of Himalayan Pit Viper (*Ancestedon* sp.) the major catch of the tour. The students also had a live demonstration regarding the life cycle and metamorphosis of Frog which was abundant in the lap of Sonamarg demonstrating an undisturbed ecosystem. The team had their lunch at Childrens park Sonamarg and proceeded towards Thajwas wildlife sanctuary for observing the wild fauna and collection of some high altitude fauna. Before segregation into various groups the students had a demonstration about wildlife sanctuaries and after the briefing the students trekked to the base of the Thajwas glaciator and also collected different fauna to be submitted to the museum after proper preservation and

labelling. Despite hectic schedule, the students enjoyed a lot. They had a very good time collecting specimens, enquiring their unresolved queries about mother nature and various wild fauna they encountered during the trip. The team returned back to the college from Thajwas wild life sanctuary. On their way back to college the team had a small halt at the ecopark maintained by JK TDC where they sighted a very beautiful wild Mammal belonging to Order Rodentia and commonly known as Himalayan Hare Mouse (*Ochotona roylei*).

**Picture Taken during the Study Tour of 1<sup>st</sup> Semester 2017.**



At Mammar Trout Farm, on way to Sonamarg.



Students getting demonstration from staff about trout farming.



Students getting demonstration from staff about trout.







View of trout farm



A very short halt on way to sonamarg





Having a tea break on way to Sonamarg.



At Childrens park sonamarg





Students having their lunch



Students having their lunch





Students having their lunch



Offering prayers at Childrens park sonamarg





High altitude collection



Snake collected and preserved



At the entry of Thajwas Wild life sanctuary



A group photo at Thajwas Wild Life Sanctuary







Students being sensitised about collection of different fauna in the wild.





A group photo along with the students in the lap of Thajwas Wild Life Sanctuary.



The ultimate finding of the day “the Himalayan Hare Mouse (*Ochotona roylei*)”

