

# Dispersal record of a striped hyena from a camera trap survey

Kainat Latafat, Ayan Sadhu\*, Qamar Qureshi and Yadvendradev V. Jhala

Wildlife Institute of India, Chandrabani, Dehradun 248 001, India

Dispersal plays a vital role in shaping large carnivores' demography and distribution, ensuring their long-term persistence through gene flow between populations. Dispersal events of large carnivores are difficult to record as they are cryptic and disperse long distances from their area of origin. While the ecology and behaviour of striped hyena are well studied, information on dispersal is scarce. The present study documented a dispersal event of a striped hyena recorded from camera traps, where the individual dispersed from Rajaji National Park, Uttarakhand, India, and adjoining Shyampur forests to Corbett Tiger Reserve (Kalagarh), covering 85 km from its first capture, which is significantly larger than the average maximum distance travelled (4.95 km, range = 0.7–9.48 km) by hyenas, as obtained from the camera traps. Our findings emphasised the importance of large-scale camera trap surveys to study different aspects of multi-taxa systems, and depicted the functional connectivity between Corbett and Rajaji which is crucial to maintain gene flow in the larger landscape.

**Keywords:** Corbett Tiger Reserve, corridors, dispersal distance, hyena, Rajaji Tiger Reserve, Terai Arc Landscape.