

RHESUS MACAQUES IN CHINA AND HENAN PROVINCE

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Rhesus macaque (*Macaca mulatta*) is a sexually dimorphic species, it was abundant historically in China among 17 Province in China, but humans have caused drastic decline of populations in these areas over the last sixty years. There 6 subspecies were identified among the rhesus macaques in China. Before the end of 1980s, natural groups of Rhesus macaque distributed in Xinglong area (N 40°28', E 117°29') northeast Beijing, China. Unfortunately, Xinglong macaques came into extinction since then. The present northernmost populations occurred in the Mt. Taihangshan area (N 112°02' ~112°52', E 34°54'~35°16'), where referred to the boundary region of Henan and Shanxi Provinces, and to the northernmost distributed region of free-ranging rhesus macaques worldwide. Taihangshan Macaque National Nature Reserve (TMNNR) was established in 1998. By field observation and analyzing on data from 2003 to 2009, we investigated the population dynamics of one free-ranging troop of rhesus macaque. The results show that: 1) the individuals within this troop was 14 in Feb. 2003, and 39 at the end of this research; 2) the average annual increase rate was 15.8%, ranging from 12.5% to 21.9% during the past years. The exciting growth rate of this troop could be attributed for better protection after the establishment of TMNNR. Further research is necessary to understand the factors that influencing population dynamics.

Keywords: Rhesus macaque, Mt. Taihangshan area, Henan, China