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# Preliminary Survey on Fauna of Elamulla, Madaramnuwara, Sri Lanka

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Mandaramnuwara has a wide range of faunal diversity due to its unique location at the foothills of the Pidurutalagala mountain range. Elamulla is an agricultural village within the Mandaramnuwara area and lacks biodiversity records through a proper survey. Therefore, a primary Visual Encounter Survey was conducted for two days in October 2022 to document several selected faunal groups including birds, butterflies, dragonflies, reptiles, and mammals (birds and mammals within 50 m distance from the road and butterflies, dragonflies, reptiles within 10 m distance from the road). The recorded fauna comprises 21 species, including the endemic Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot (*Loriculus beryllinus*) and near-threatened Sri Lankan white-eye (*Zosterops ceylonensis*). Two butterfly species were recorded during the survey. Marsh skimmer (*Orthetrum luzonicum*), which is considered endangered, is the only dragonfly species recorded. Endangered Gray's earth snake (*Uropeltis melanogaster*) is the only reptile observed during the survey. Out of three mammal species recorded Barking deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*) is considered as endangered. Green Frost Lizard (*Calotes calotes*) was identified as the only lizard species during this survey. The local communities of the area are constantly interacting with nature for their livelihoods. Irresponsible anthropogenic activities such as uncontrolled waste disposal by visitors, clearing of natural vegetation in and around ecologically sensitive areas and the high use of agrochemicals such as pesticides for agriculture were observed in the area which could threaten the habitats. Therefore, it is urged to educate the local communities about the significance of the biodiversity of the area to adopt community based sustainable conservation of biodiversity and manage the impacts of the visitors to the area. However, a detailed survey must be carried out to study the abundance and seasonal variations of the ecology in the study area.

**Keywords:** *Elamulla, Endangered, Endemic, Mandaramnuwara, Piduruthalagala*

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