

Project Update: June 2015

The second round of data collection was conducted from April 1, 2015 till May 20, 2015. The sampling design, number of transects, number of trap nights and survey protocol remain same as to that of first round of data collection.

A total of 128 individuals of small mammals were captured from 16 transects in 960 trap nights. In addition to four species (Pigmy Shrew (*Sorex minutus*), Sikkim Vole (*Macrotus sikimensis*), Himalayan White Bellied Rat (*Niviventer niviventer*), and Common House Rat (*Rattus rattus*)) which was recorded in winter season, other two additional species were recorded namely *Niviventer eha* and *Ochotona macrotis* during this time of data collection.



Figure 1. A. *Ochotona macrotis* B. *Niviventer eha*

The data analysis using statistical test showed small mammals were influenced by different environmental factors like slope, aspect and elevation. The highest number of animal was recorded on gentle slope 84 % ($n=109$) and overall number of small mammals was recorded maximum in northeast, southeast and south aspects with total number of 50, 27 and 17 respectively.

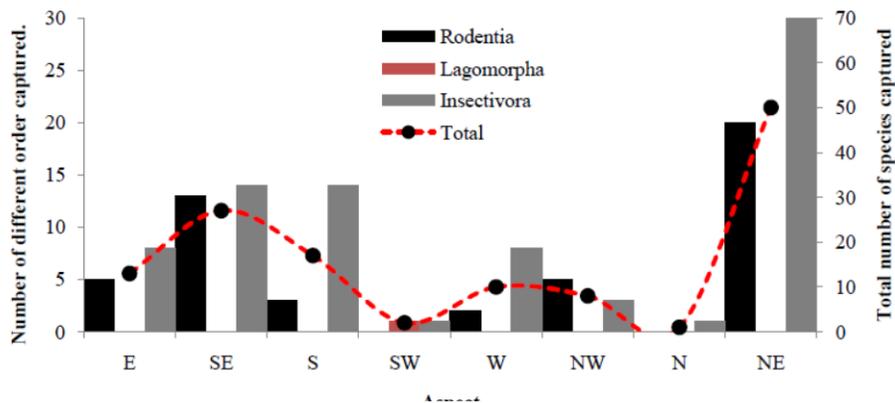


Figure 2. Aspect preferred by different orders of small mammals

Presentation of Study Results:

The results of the study were presented to faculties and 97 students (60 students of diploma in forestry and 37 students of BSc. sustainable development) of College of Natural Resources. The question answer session has created a platform to both researcher and audience to provide critiques and suggestions to improve the study and make more scientific.

This presentation is organized with aim to disseminate the study results and create awareness to young and energetic youth of Bhutan on status of small mammals and their importance in Bhutan.