Practice and experience gained by routine blood examination combined with development of more accurate techniques provide reliable diagnostic insights into disease processes in wild animals.

Spotted Deer *Axis axis* is the most common deer in India belonging to the family Cervidae. There is a dearth of useful published data on the haematobiochemical profile of wild animals. Most of the data available on the wild animal haematopoetic response to disease is related to the more common domestic species. Keeping this in mind the following studies have been undertaken to monitor the health, disease status and effectiveness of conservation programme of Spotted Deer at Manda Zoo of Jammu.

Twenty-one Spotted Deer stags aged between 1-2 years were selected from a large herd reared at Manda Zoo. The deers were immobilized by physical restraint, caught by one person in a small outdoor room and held down while a blood sample was taken with minimum of excitement and struggle in order to obtain physiological values not influenced by other factors (Hussain *et al*., 2002).

Blood samples were obtained from the jugular vein using disposable needle (18G) and syringe. About 4ml of blood was placed into tubes containing anticoagulant (Sodium EDTA & Sodium fluoride mixture) with the remainder (about 6ml) being placed into a non-anticoagulent tube. Blood in the non-anticoagulent tube was left to clot at room temperature for 1hr. Blood tubes with no anticoagulants and anticoagulant were centrifuged at 2500rpm for 10min. The plasma and serum was removed and stored in a deep freezer (-20°C) until analysis.

The blood metabolite like total serum protein, glucose, blood urea nitrogen, calcium, phosphorus and alkaline phosphatase were determined using standard diagnostic kit (supplied by Qualigen Fine Chemical, Mumbai).

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