

Gray slender loris

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In news— Recently, scientists from the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) in Coimbatore recently carried out a survey of slender loris populations in Tamil Nadu's Dindigul forest division.

About gray slender loris-

- The gray slender loris, a species of primate (*Loris lydekkerianus*) **belongs to the family Loridae**.
- It has got a **lean and lanky appearance, with longer and slender limbs, larger ears**, pointed snout and eyes circled with black or dark brown.
- **It is commonly found in the tropical scrub and deciduous forests as well as the dense hedgerow plantations bordering farmlands of Southern India and Sri Lanka.**
- It is found in acacia and tamarind-dominated thorn and scrub forests near cultivated fields.
- **Of the six species of Lorisinae**, the *Loris lydekkerianus* is found in and around the Ayyalur, Alagarkovil, Manapparai, Sirumalai and Kadavur areas in Tamil Nadu.
- **The two species of slender loris are the red slender loris (*Loris tardigradus*) and the gray slender loris (*L. lydekkerianus*).**
- **The sub species of grey slender loris include-**
 - Malabar slender loris, *Loris lydekkerianus malabaricus*.
 - Mysore slender loris, *Loris lydekkerianus lydekkerianus*.
 - Northern Ceylonese slender loris, *Loris lydekkerianus nordicus*.
 - Highland slender loris, *Loris lydekkerianus grandis*.
- It is a **nocturnal animal** and **slow-moving animal**.

- As the slender loris **can't jump or leap, it requires forest cover with canopy contiguity.**
- Generally, it **sleeps by day, hiding among foliage or in a hole or crevice.** It starts moving from its resting place by dusk.
- **Though it is insectivorous, it is fond of lantana berries also.**
- It is **'Endangered'** according to the IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species.
- It is **listed under Appendix II of the** Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species(CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- The loris has become **threatened mainly because of habitat loss,** hunting for the pet trade and for their meat, road kills, superstitious kills and traditional medicine and habitat fragmentation pose serious threats to this primate.