

Penzance B.S.A.C.

Conservation Officer's Report

January 2011

Few fish are famed for their parenting skills. Most species leave their freshly hatched fry to fend for themselves, but not Discus Fish. Scientists from Plymouth University finds that Discus fish parent their young like mammalian mothers. During the first three days after hatching, the fry remain attached to the cone where the parents laid their eggs, absorbing the yolk and gaining strength until all the fry were able to swim independently. Then they leave the cone en masse and begin feeding on mucus that their parents secrete over their bodies until they are big enough to forage for themselves. In the breeding colony that was set up, the fry would feed from one parent for about 10 minutes until the parent expertly 'flicked' the shoal over to its partner to continue feeding. The parents diligently fed their young for 2 weeks but in the third week the parents behaviour changed as they started swimming away from their young for brief periods, they were beginning to wean their offspring similar to the behaviour seen in mammals and birds. By the fourth week the parents were actively swimming away from their brood.



Discus Fish

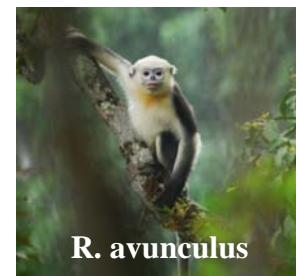
An international team of primatologists have discovered a new species of monkey in northern Myanmar (formerly Burma) when carrying out a Hoolock Gibbon Status Review in early 2010. It has been named *Rhinopithicus strykeri*, it is a species of snub-nosed monkey with an upturned nose. Local hunters had reported the presence of a monkey species with prominent lips and wide upturned nostrils, and sightings were reported from the eastern Himalayas to the northeastern Kachin state, leading the



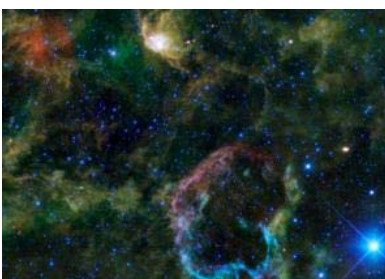
Mey nwoah

team to conduct field surveys which led to the discovery of a small population of a new species displaying characteristics unlike any other snub-nosed species previously described. While the species is new to science, the local people know it well, and call it mey nwoah (monkey with an upturned face), and say that it is easy to find when it is raining because rainwater gets into the upturned noses causing the monkeys to sneeze, although on rainy days they tend to sit around with their heads tucked between their knees.

A new population of another snub-nosed monkey, thought to be extinct, called *Rhinopithicus avunculus*, has been found in a remote forested area in northern Vietnam. This exciting find provides new hope for the monkey's future. The find came about after a team from Fauna & Flora International (FFI) had interviewed communities near the Chinese border last year, it emerged that villagers had sighted the strange looking monkeys after seeing rare footage of them that FFI had supplied to a national television network



R. avunculus



NASA's Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer, or WISE sees an explosion of Infrared light. When massive stars die they explode in tremendous blasts, called supernova which send out shock waves. The shock waves sweep up and heat surrounding gas and dust, creating supernova remnants like the one pictured in this image.

There were only three reports of Bottlenose Dolphins during December, a pod of 4 off Sennen on the 15th, 8 off The Mount on the 22nd and 5 off Godrevy on the 31st. The only report of Common Dolphins was of about 25 off Sennen on the 11th. There was also a single report of a Grey Seal off Pendennis Point on the 22nd. There were 10 Reports of Harbour Porpoises, one was of 3 seen off Gunwalloe Church Cove on the 5th, and all the rest were seen between Jubilee Pool and Cape Cornwall. December is the month that dead Trigger fish begin to strand on Cornish beaches for some unknown reason, and it occurred again this December with 33 being found on Porth Kidney Beach. There were also reports of hundreds of Goose Barnacles being found stranded around Cornish Beaches.