

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

**VARIATION IN PREY COMMUNITY DETERMINES NESTING RATES OF  
*MEROPS PHILIPPINUS***

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***Abstract:** Merops philippinus builds its nests by digging holes in river cliffs. Some of the nesting sites experience successful reproduction with variable nesting rates. The determinant of such variation is unknown. Noachhar, Sadhgunj, and Dinhata are such three successful nesting sites with drastically different nesting rates. This study explores the composition of the prey community of Merops philippinus that may determine the nesting rates of this bird in these three sites. Statistical analysis of field data reveals that low Bee and Wasp, but high Damselfly, Homopteran, and Ants make up the prey community to observe high nesting at a successful site.*

**Keywords:** Prey community, variation, nesting rate, *Merops philippinus*.