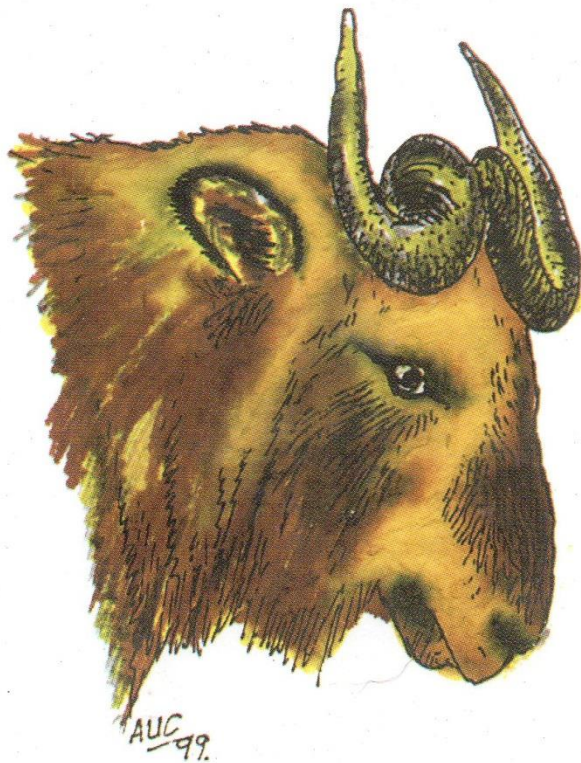


**THE
MAMMALS
OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH**



Anwaruddin Choudhury

Family FELIDAE

Cats

(117) 120. *Felis chaus* Jungle cat

F. chaus Gueldenstaedt, 1776: 483. TYPE-LOCALITY: Terek R., N. of Caucasus.

Local Names. *Bon-mekuri*, *Bonbonda* (A), *Tassi* (Adi), *Aschangu* (Idu Mishmi, lesser cats in general), *Susu-nambu* (Monpa).

Distribution & Status. Common all over the state. It is the most abundant of the small felids found in the area. Affects forest, forest-edge, plantations and vicinity of human habitation where it is a known killer of domestic fowl.

The subspecies *affinis* is found in the N. bank of the Brahmaputra R. while *fulvidina* in the S. bank areas, especially in E. Arunachal Pradesh.

Subspecies. 120a. *F. c. affinis*

F. affinis Gray, 1830 (in 1830-35): pl. 3. TYPE-LOCALITY: Gangotri, Tehri Garhwal, Uttar Pradesh, India.

120b. *F. c. fulvidina*

F. affinis fulvidina Thomas, 1929: 834. TYPE-LOCALITY: Kampong Tomb, Annam, Vietnam.

Remarks. The subspecific classification is mainly based upon minor differences in size and length of the pelage. Hence, these may be treated as tentative. WPA: Schedule II (II).

(118) 121. *Felis bengalensis* Leopard cat

F. bengalensis Kerr, 1792: 151. TYPE-LOCALITY: S. Bengal, India.

Local Names. *Lota-mekuri bagh* (A), *Hole* (Adi), *Sigi* (Bugun), *Susu-nambu* (Monpa).

Distribution & Status. Well distributed in the forests, from plains to hills. Still fairly common and alongwith *F. chaus*, is among the most abundant small felids in Arunachal Pradesh. Found in all the protected areas of the State.

Subspecies. 121a. *F. b. bengalensis*. Nominate subspecies. Found all over.

121b. *F. b. horsfieldii*

F. horsfieldii Gray, 1842: 260. TYPE-LOCALITY: Bhutan. Probably in western Arunachal Pradesh.

Remarks. Included in the genus *Prionailurus* (Severtzov, 1858; Corbet & Hill, 1992) mainly on the basis of pattern of stripes and colouration rather than cranial, dental or other more concrete characteristics. The subspecific classification and their distribution need a detailed review. CITES: Appendix I /II; WPA: Schedule I.

(119) **122. *Felis viverrinus*** Fishing cat

F. viverrinus Bennett, 1833: 68. TYPE-LOCALITY: India, probably the Malabar coast.

Local Name. *Meseka* ? (A).

Distribution & Status. Distributed all over Arunachal Pradesh in well-watered localities. Rare. Protected areas having the species are Namdapha N.P., Eaglenest W.S., Itanagar W.S., Kamlang W.S., Mehao W.S., Pakhui W.S., Sessa Orchid Sanctuary and ? Taley Valley W.S.

Remarks. Considered as *Felis* instead of *Prionailurus* for reasons mentioned in *bengalensis*. IUCN: VU; WPA: Schedule I.

(120) **123. *Felis temminckii*** Golden cat

F. temminckii Vigors & Horsfield, 1827: 451. TYPE-LOCALITY: Sumatra, Indonesia.

Local Name. *Zik* (Monpa).

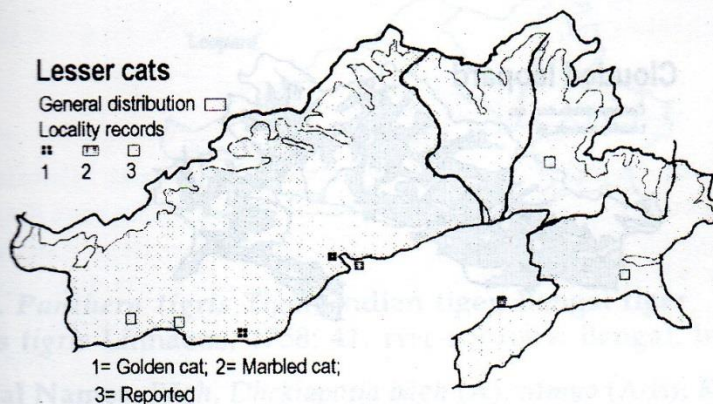
Distribution & Status. Found in the forests all over. Very rare and sight records are few. Definite records from Lower Subansiri, E. Kameng and Papum Pare districts. In the first named area, the local Hill Miris occasionally snare it. One such animal was photographed by a group of anglers at Gaimukh on the banks of the Subansiri R. in November, 1997 (Atul Borgohain, *pc*). There is also a sight record at Di-ring in Papum Pare dist in 1968.

Remarks. Included in a separate genus *Catopuma* (Severtzov, 1858; Corbet & Hill, 1992) on the basis of minor colour patterns and shades. Distribution in India not correctly shown in Corbet & Hill (1992). CITES: Appendix I; IUCN: VU; WPA: Schedule I.

124. (121) *Felis marmorata* Marbled cat

F. marmorata Martin, 1837: 108. TYPE-LOCALITY: Sumatra, Indonesia (Robinson & Kloss, 1919: 261).

Local Name. *Simnyo-nyeling* (Adi).



Distribution & Status. Forests in the hills and foothills all over. Rare. Recent records, one skin from Mehao W.S. (Chakraborty & Sen, 1991), another skin from degraded evergreen forest in Subansiri R.F., Dhemaji dist of Assam in 1990. Subansiri R.F. is on the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border with contiguous habitat. The Subansiri specimen also happened to be the largest known in the world with a head-and-body length of 65 cm. (Choudhury, 1996f).

Remarks. Included in the genus *Pardofelis* by Severtzov (1858) and Corbet & Hill (1992). Latter also clubbed the Marbled cat and the Clouded leopard in the same genus which perhaps needs further justification as except the pattern of their coat, there is little similarity to warrant inclusion in the same genus. Moreover, the cranial and dental characteristics of *nebulosa* are significantly different from all other cats.

The subspecific classification, especially of the mainland animals needs a fresh review. Ellerman & Morrison-Scott (1951) suggests that the race occurs in Assam and adjacent areas is *F. m. charltonii* Gray, 1846: 211 (TYPE-LOCALITY: Darjeeling, West Bengal, India).

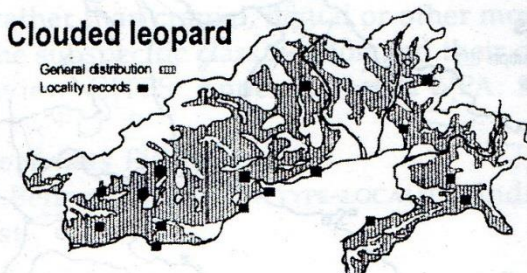
Distribution in India by Corbet & Hill (1992) incorrectly shown. CITES: Appendix I; IUCN: VU; WPA: Schedule I.

125. *Neofelis nebulosa* Clouded leopard

Felis nebulosa Griffith, 1821: 37. TYPE-LOCALITY: Canton, S. China.

Local Names. *Godha-futuki bagh* (A), *Karbok* (Bangni / Nishi), *Panchat* (Miji), *Gungser*, *Sagretphoh* (Monpa).

Distribution & Status. In the forested hills, foothills and edge of the hills all over Arunachal Pradesh. Very rare. Recent records



including skins and skulls suggest thin but widespread distribution. Recorded in Mouling N.P., Namdapha N.P., Kamlang W.S. (Choudhury, 1996h), Mehao W.S., Pakhui W.S., near Panir R.F. and Taley Valley W.S. (Dey, 1995), and near Seijosa (sighted inside Assam, Pratap Singh, *pc*). Also reported from Dibang W.S., Eaglenest W.S., Itanagar W.S., and Sessa Orchid Sanctuary. There is also a specimen record from Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border in W. Siang dist (Choudhury, 1993a).

Subspecies. 125a. *N. n. macroseloides*

Felis macroseloides Hodgson in Gray, 1853: 192 (= *F. macroceloides* in pl. 38). TYPE-LOCALITY: Nepal.

Remarks. Included in the genus *Pardofelis* by Corbet & Hill (1992) (also see remarks in *marmorata*). CITES: Appendix I; IUCN: VU; WPA: Schedule I.

(123) **126. *Panthera pardus* Leopard, Panther**

Felis pardus Linnaeus, 1758: 41. TYPE-LOCALITY: Egypt. Conserved by Opinion 1368 (1985).

Local Names. *Nahorfutuki bagh* (A), *Ghoong* (A, Black panther), *Thakkar* (Adi), *Hoge-takke* (Apatani), *Kargong* (Bangni/Nishi), *Ichi* (Idu Mishmi), *Bartak*, *Gungtak* (Monpa), *Chanu* (Wancho).

Distribution & Status. Well distributed in the forests. Still fairly common. It is also found in most of the protected areas. Recorded at 4100 m elevation at Nagula, Tawang dist.

Subspecies. 126a. *P. p. fusca*

Felis fusca Meyer, 1794: 394. TYPE-LOCALITY: Bengal, India.

Remarks. CITES: Appendix I; WPA: Schedule I.



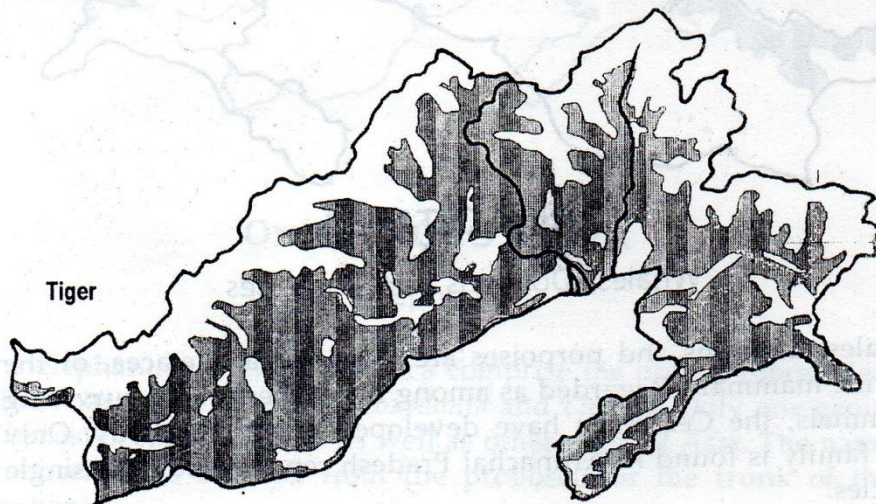
- (124) 127. *Panthera tigris* Tiger, Indian tiger, Bengal tiger
Felis tigris Linnaeus, 1758: 41. TYPE-LOCALITY: Bengal, India.

Local Names. *Bāgh*, *Dhekiapotia bāgh* (A), *Sîmyo* (Adi), *Kheche* (Aka), *Pâté* (Apatani), *Senio* (Bangni/Nishi), *Mûchua* (Bugun), *Ama* (Idu Mishmi), *Tingran* (Miji), *Bushu* (Monpa), *Bu-ata* (Monpa, Zemithang area), *Fooh* (Sherdukpen), *Chānu* (Wancho).

Distribution & Status. Widespread in the forests and grassland, from floodplains to the mountains. Not uncommon at suitable localities. Protected areas with large population (>50) are Namdapha N.P. and Pakhui W.S. The protected areas having >10 tigers are Mouling N.P., D'Ering Memorial W.S., Dibang W.S., Eaglenest W.S., Itanagar W.S., Kamlang W.S., Mehao W.S., Sessa Orchid Sanctuary and Taley Valley W.S. Also found in Kane W.S.

Subspecies. 127a. *P. t. tigris* Linnaeus, 1758. Bengal tiger. Nominate subspecies.

Remarks. Also often called the Royal Bengal tiger. There is a recent spurt in poaching all over its range for its bone which is used in Chinese medicine. CITES: Appendix I; IUCN: EN; WPA: Schedule I.



128. *Uncia uncia* Snow leopard, Ounce

Felis uncia Schreber, 1776: 100 (1776), 386, 586 (1777). TYPE-LOCALITY: Unknown.

Local Name. *Yuodi simyo* (Adi).

Distribution & Status. Very rare. Found in the Great Himalaya, trans-Himalaya and the highest parts of Mishmi Hills and Dapha Bum. Past record from Se-la (Gee, 1964), on the border of present Tawang and W. Kameng districts. Local reports from the higher areas, usually above 4000 m, in E. Kameng, Upper Subansiri, Upper Siang, Dibang Valley, Lohit and Changlang districts. Protected areas from where it has been reported (however, no specimen record so far) are Namdapha N.P., Mouling N.P., Dibang W.S. and Mehao W.S. (only in winter). In the last named site, pugmarks recorded on snow at 2560–2880 m during winter (Chakraborty & Sen, 1991). Also reported from Dichu R.F. in Lohit dist.

Remarks. Often put in a separate genus *Uncia* because of some craniological, morphological and ethological characteristics (Heptner & Sludskii, 1992). CITES: Appendix I; IUCN: EN; WPA: Schedule I.



Order CETACEA

Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises

Whales, dolphins and porpoises are classified as Cetacea, or the marine mammals. Regarded as among the earliest of the surviving mammals, the Cetaceans have developed a fish-like body. Only one family is found in Arunachal Pradesh represented by a single species.