
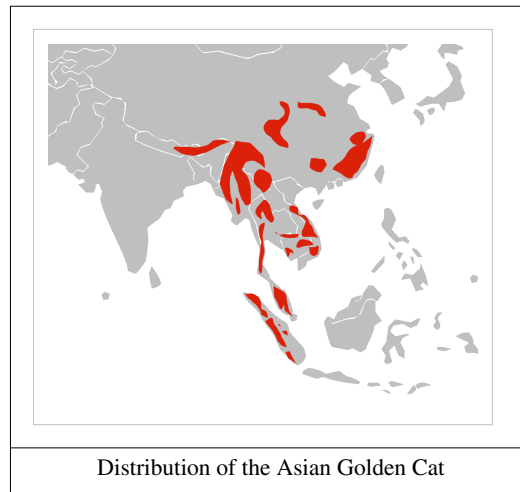


Asian Golden Cat

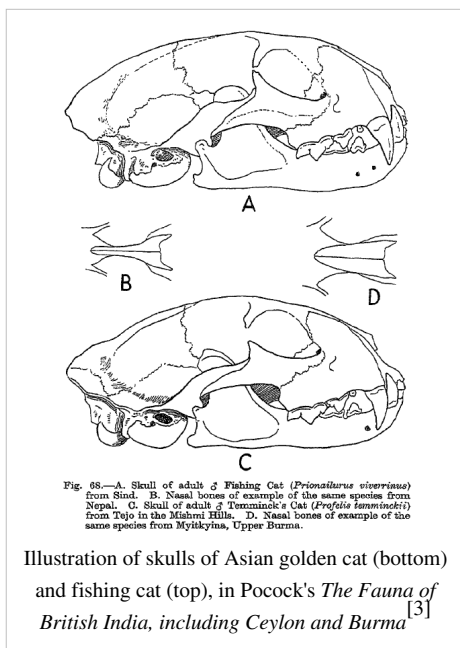
Asian Golden Cat	
	
Conservation status	
<div><div>Extinct</div><div>Threatened</div><div>Least Concern</div><div><div>EX</div><div>EW</div><div>CR</div><div>EN</div><div>VU</div><div>NT</div><div>LC</div></div></div> <div>Near Threatened (IUCN 3.1)^[1]</div>	
Scientific classification	
Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Class:	Mammalia
Order:	Carnivora
Family:	Felidae
Genus:	<i>Pardofelis</i> ^[1]
Species:	<i>P. temminckii</i>
Binomial name	
<i>Pardofelis temminckii</i> (Vigors & Horsfield, 1827)	



The **Asian Golden Cat** (*Pardofelis temminckii*, syn. *Catopuma temminckii*), also called the **Asiatic Golden Cat** and **Temminck's Golden Cat**, is a medium-sized wild cat of Southeastern Asia. In 2008, the IUCN classified Asian Golden cats as *Near Threatened*, stating that the species comes close to qualifying as *Vulnerable* due to hunting pressure and habitat loss, since Southeast Asian forests are undergoing the world's fastest regional deforestation rates.^[1]

The Asian golden cat was named in honor of the Dutch zoologist Coenraad Jacob Temminck, who first described the African Golden Cat in 1827.^[2]

Characteristics



The Asian golden cat is heavily built, with a typical cat-like appearance. It has a head-body length of 66 to 105 cm (26 to 41 in), with a tail 40 to 57 cm (16 to 22 in) long, and is 56 cm (22 in) at the shoulder. The weight ranges from 9 to 16 kg (20 to 35 lb), which is about two or three times the size of a domesticated cat.^[2]

The pelage is uniform in color, but highly variable ranging from red to golden brown, dark brown to pale cinnamon, gray to black. Transitional forms among the different colorations also exist. It may be marked with spots and stripes. White and black lines run across the cheeks and up to the top of the head, while the ears are black with a central grey area.^[2] Golden cats with leopard-like spots have been found in China, resembling a large leopard cat. This spotted fur is a recessive characteristic.^[4]

Distribution and habitat

Asian golden cats live throughout Southeast Asia, ranging from Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, India and Bangladesh to Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Southern China to Malaysia and Sumatra. They prefer forest habitats interspersed with rocky areas, and are found in dry deciduous, subtropical evergreen and tropical rainforests.^[5] Sometimes, they are found in more open terrain such as the grasslands of Assam's Manas National Park.^[6] In altitude, they range from the lowlands to over 3000 m (9800 ft) in the Himalayas.^[7]

In Laos, they also occur in bamboo regrowth, scrub and degraded forest from the Mekong plains to at least 1100 m (3600 ft).^[8] In Bhutan's Jigme Singye Wangchuk National Park, they were recorded by camera traps at an altitude of 3738 m (12264 ft).^[9] In Sikkim's Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve, they were photo-trapped at elevations up to 3960 m (12990 ft).^[10]

Since Hodgson's description of 1831 of a male individual in Nepal under the binomial *Felis moormensis*, the country is believed to be the westernmost part of the species' range.^[11] ^[12] But no specimen has been recorded in the country, until in May 2009 a camera trap survey yielded the first photographic record of a melanistic Asian golden cat in Makalu Barun National Park at an altitude of 2517 m (8258 ft).^[13]

Three subspecies have been recognized:^[14]

- *Pardofelis temminckii temminckii* found in the Himalayas, Southeast Asian mainland and Sumatra
- *Pardofelis temminckii dominicanorum* found in southeast China
- *Pardofelis temminckii tristis* found in southwest China

These trinomials do not yet reflect the taxonomic re-classification accepted since 2006.^[1]

Ecology and behavior

Asian golden cats are territorial and solitary. Previous observations suggested that they are primarily nocturnal, but a field study on two radio-collared specimens revealed arrhythmic activity patterns dominated by crepuscular and diurnal activity peaks, with much less activity late at night. The male's territory was 47.7 km² (18.4 sq mi) in size and increased more than 15% during the rainy season. The female's territory was 32.6 square kilometres (12.6 sq mi) in size. Both cats traveled between only 55 metres (180 ft) to more than 9 kilometres (5.6 mi) in a day and were more active in July than in March.^[15]

Asian golden cats can climb trees when necessary. They hunt birds, large rodents and reptiles, small ungulates such as muntjacs and young sambar deer.^[5] They are capable of bringing down prey much larger than themselves, such as domestic water buffalo calves.^[16] In the mountains of Sikkim, they reportedly prey on ghoral.^[17]

Their vocalizations include hissing, spitting, meowing, purring, growling, and gurgling. Other methods of communication observed in captive Asian Golden cats include scent marking, urine spraying, raking trees and logs with claws, and rubbing of the head against various objects, much like a domestic cat.^[2]

Reproduction

Not much is known about the reproductive behavior of this rather elusive cat in the wild. Most of what is known, has been learned in captivity.^[18] Female Asian Golden cats are sexually mature between 18 and 24 months, while males mature at 24 months. Females come into estrus every 39 days, at which times they leave markings and seek contact with the male by adopting receptive postures.^[19] During intercourse, the male will seize the skin of the neck of the female with its teeth. After a gestation period of 78 to 80 days, the female gives birth to a litter of one to three kittens in a sheltered place. The kittens weigh 220 to 250 grams (7.8 to 8.8 oz) at birth, but triple in size over the first eight weeks of life. They are born already possessing the adult coat pattern, and open their eyes at six to twelve days.^[2] In captivity, they live for up to twenty years.^[20]



A grey morph of the Asian Golden Cat,
Arunachal Pradesh, India



Asian golden cat with a piece of meat.

Threats

Asian golden cats inhabit some of the fastest developing countries in the world, where they are increasingly threatened by habitat destruction following deforestation, along with a declining ungulate prey base.^[1] Another serious threat is hunting for the illegal wildlife trade, which has the greatest potential to do maximum harm in minimal time.^[5] It has been reported killed in revenge for depredating livestock, including poultry but also larger animals such as sheep, goats and buffalo calves.

Illegal wildlife trade

Asian golden cats are mainly poached for their fur.^[21] In Myanmar, 111 body parts of at least 110 individuals were observed in four markets surveyed between 1991 to 2006. Numbers were significantly larger than non-threatened species. Among the observed skins was a specimen with ocelot-like rosettes — a rare 'tristis' form. Three of the surveyed markets are situated on international borders with China and Thailand, and cater to international buyers, although the Asian golden cat is completely protected under Myanmar's national legislation. Effective implementation and enforcement of CITES is considered inadequate.^[22]

Conservation

The Asian golden cat was previously regarded as a vulnerable species, but surveys in Sumatra and in the Nam Et-Phou Louey National Protected Area in northern Laos indicated that it is more common than sympatric small cats, suggesting that it is more numerous than previously believed.^[23] ^[24] However, surveys in Thailand, northern Myanmar and India's western Arunachal Pradesh revealed fewer numbers.^[21] ^[25] ^[26] It is protected in all of its range except Bhutan, where it is protected only within the boundaries of protected areas.^[9]

The population size of the Asian golden cat is unknown and difficult to estimate. It was regarded as abundant in many countries until the later part of the last century, where poaching shifted away from tigers and leopards to this species. In China it is reported to be the next rarest cat apart from tigers and leopards.

In captivity

As of December 2008, there were 20 Asian golden cats in 8 European zoos participating in the European Endangered Species Programme. The pair in the German Wuppertal Zoo successfully bred again in 2007, and in July 2008, two siblings were born and mother-reared. In 2008, a female kitten was also born in the French Parc des Félines. The species is also kept in the Singapore Zoo.^[27] Apart from these, a few zoos in Southeast Asia and Australia also keep Asian Golden Cat. The only specimens held in North America are old and genetically impoverished individuals.

Taxonomy

The Asian golden cat bears a great resemblance to the African Golden Cat, but it is unlikely that they are closely related because the forests of Africa and Asia have not been connected in over 20 million years. Their similarity is more an example of convergent evolution.

The Asian golden cat is similar to the Bay Cat of Borneo in both appearance and behavior. Genetic studies revealed that the two species are very closely related. The Asian Golden Cat is found in Sumatra and Malaysia, which only separated from Borneo about 10,000 to 15,000 years ago. These observations led to the assumption that the Bay Cat is an insular subspecies of the Asian golden cat.

Genetic analysis has shown that the Asian golden cat, along with the bay cat and the Marbled Cat, diverged from the other felids about 9.4 million years ago, and that the Asian golden cat and Bay Cat differed as long as four million years ago, suggesting that the bay cat was a different species long before the isolation of Borneo. Because of the evident close relationship with the marbled cat, it has recently been suggested that all three species should be grouped in the genus *Pardofelis*.^[28]

Mythology

In some regions of Thailand, the Asian golden cat is called *Seua fai* ("fire tiger"). According to a regional legend, the burning of an Asian Golden Cat's fur drives tigers away. Eating the flesh is believed to have the same effect. The Karen people believe that simply carrying a single hair of the cat will be sufficient.^[29] Many indigenous people believe this cat to be fierce, but in captivity it has been known to be very docile and tranquil.

References

- [1] Sanderson, J., Mukherjee, S., Wilting, A., Sunarto, S., Hearn, A., Ross, J. & Khan, J.A. (2008). "*Pardofelis temminckii*" (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/apps/redlist/details/4038>). *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2010.4*. International Union for Conservation of Nature. .
- [2] Sunquist, Mel; Sunquist, Fiona (2002). *Wild cats of the World*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. pp. 52–56. ISBN 0-226-77999-8.
- [3] Pocock, R.I. (1939) *The Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Mammalia. – Volume 1* (<http://www.archive.org/stream/PocockMammalia1/pocock1#page/n331/mode/2up>). Taylor and Francis, Ltd., London. Pp 259–264
- [4] Allen, G.M. (1938) *The mammals of China and Mongolia*. New York: American Museum of Natural History.
- [5] Nowell, K., Jackson, P. (1996). '*Wild Cats: status survey and conservation action plan* (<http://www.catsg.org/catsgportal/cat-website/catfolk/temmin01.htm>). IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group, Gland, Switzerland. .
- [6] Choudhury, A. (2007) *Sighting of Asiatic golden cat in the grasslands of Assam's Manas National Park*. Cat News 47: 29.
- [7] Baral H.S. and Shah K.B. (2008) *Wild Mammals of Nepal*. Himalayan Nature, Kathmandu.
- [8] Duckworth, J. W., Salter, R. E. and Khounboline, K. (compilers) (1999) *Wildlife in Lao PDR: 1999 Status Report* (http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/lao_wildlife_status_report_1999.pdf). Vientiane: IUCN – The World Conservation Union / Wildlife Conservation Society / Centre for Protected Areas and Watershed Management.
- [9] Wang, S. W. (2007) *A rare morph of the Asiatic golden cat in Bhutan's Jigme Singye Wangchuk National Park*. Cat News 47: 27–28.
- [10] Bashir, T., Bhattacharya, T., Poudyal, K. and Sathyakumar, S. (2011) *Notable observations on the melanistic Asiatic Golden cat (Pardofelis temminckii) of Sikkim, India*. NeBio 2 (1): 2–4.
- [11] Hodgson, B. H. (1831) *Some Account of a new Species of Felis*. Gleanings in Science, Volume III. Calcutta 1832: 177–178.
- [12] Ellerman J. R. and Morrison-Scott T. C. S. (1966) *Checklist of Palaearctic and Indian mammals 1758 to 1946*. London.
- [13] Ghimirey, Y., Pal, P. (2009) *First camera trap image of Asiatic golden cat in Nepal* (<http://fonnepal.org/Downloads/CatNews51-Ghimirey&Pal.pdf>). Cat News 51: 17
- [14] Grubb, Peter (16 November 2005). Wilson, Don E., and Reeder, DeeAnn M., eds. ed. *Mammal Species of the World* (<http://www.bucknell.edu/msw3/browse.asp?id=14000025>) (3rd ed.). Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2 vols. (2142 pp.). ISBN 978-0-8018-8221-0. OCLC 62265494. .
- [15] Grassman Jr., L. I., Tewes, M. E., Silvy, N. J., Kreetiyutanont, K. (2005) *Ecology of three sympatric felids in a mixed evergreen forest in North-central Thailand* ([http://www.cloudedleopard.org/summit/Grassman et al 2005.pdf](http://www.cloudedleopard.org/summit/Grassman%20et%20al%202005.pdf)). Journal of Mammalogy 86: 29–38
- [16] Tun Yin (1967) *Wild animals of Burma*. Rangoon Gazette Ltd, Rangoon.
- [17] Biswas, B. and Ghose, R.K. (1982) *Progress report 1 on pilot survey of the WWF-India/Zoological Survey of India collaborative project on the status survey of the lesser cats in eastern India*. Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.
- [18] Jones, M.L. (1977) *Record keeping and longevity of felids in captivity*. In: Eaton, R.L. (ed.) *The World's Cats*. Vol. 3, no. 3. Seattle: Carnivore Research Institute, Burke Museum, University of Washington.
- [19] Mellen, J. (1989) *Reproductive behaviour of small captive cats (Felis ssp.)*. Ph.D. thesis, University of California, Davis.
- [20] Prator, T., Thomas, W.D., Jones, M. and M. Dee (1988) *A twenty-year overview of selected rare carnivores in captivity*. Pp 191–229. In B. Dresser, R. Reece and E. Maruska, (eds.) *Proceedings of 5th world conference on breeding endangered species in captivity*. Cincinnati, Ohio.
- [21] Lynam, A. J., Round, P. and Brockelman, W. Y. (2006) *Status of birds and large mammals of the Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex, Thailand* (http://www.wcsthailand.org/main/downloads/dpky/DPKY_project.pdf). Biodiversity Research and Training Program and Wildlife Conservation Society, Bangkok, Thailand.
- [22] Shepherd, C. R., Nijman, V. (2008) *The wild cat trade in Myanmar* (http://www.traffic.org/species-reports/traffic_species_mammals40.pdf). TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.
- [23] Holden, J. (2001) *Small cats in Kerinci Seblat National Park, Sumatra, Indonesia*. Cat News 35: 11–14.
- [24] Johnson, A., Vongkhamheng, C., Saithongdam, T. (2009) The diversity, status and conservation of small carnivores in a montane tropical forest in northern Laos. *Oryx* 43: 626–633 doi:10.1017/S0030605309990238
- [25] Rao, M., Myint, T., Zaw, T., Htun, S. (2005) *Hunting patterns in tropical forests adjoining the Hkakaborazi National Park, north Myanmar*. *Oryx* 39(3): 292.
- [26] Mishra, C., Madhusudan, M. D., Datta, A. (2006) *Mammals of the high altitudes of western Arunachal Pradesh, eastern Himalaya: An assessment of threats and conservation needs*. *Oryx* 40: 29–35.
- [27] EAZA Felid TAG (2009) *EAZA Felid TAG Annual Report 2007–2008* (http://www.eaza.net/activities/cp/yearbook20072008/32_Felid_TAG.pdf). In: EAZA Yearbook 2007/2008. European Association of Zoos and Aquaria

- [28] Johnson, W. E., Eizirik, E., Pecon-Slattery, J., Murphy, W. J., Antunes, A., Teeling, E., O'Brien, S. J. (2006) *The late miocene radiation of modern felidae: A genetic assessment* (http://home.ncifcrf.gov/ccr/lgd/mammal_pdfs/MS545_Johnson_Science.pdf). *Science* 311: 73–77
- [29] Lekagul, B.; McNeely, J.A. (1977). *Mammals of Thailand*. Bangkok: Association for the Conservation of Wildlife.

External links

- IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group - Cat Species Information: *Asiatic Golden Cat* (<http://lynx.uio.no/lynx/catsgportal/cat-website/catfolk/temmin01.htm>)
 - Slideshow Asian Golden Cat (<http://www.zoologie.de/grzimek/fgallery/106>)
-

Article Sources and Contributors

Asian Golden Cat *Source:* <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?oldid=461290140> *Contributors:* Abigail-II, Altaileopard, Anaxial, Asarelah, BD2412, Baldhur, Bayern100, BhagyaMani, Bruinfan12, Celinakat, Chipmunkdavis, Connormah, Conscious, DaMatriX, Ermite, Fa1512, Flavio.brandani, Francisco Leandro, Geac, Genovipers, JFHJr, JohnM@no, Jokenorth, Kaarel, Katieh5584, Kurt Shaped Box, Lachatdelarue, Lancini87, Macronyx, Mariomassone, Mayor mt, Menchi, Merbabu, Metanoid, Mlgiganteus1, Miquonranger03, Mp3760, Mwngr, Open2universe, OpenCage, Oz Spinner, PL290, Pcb21, SWAdair, Sancassania, Sandhillcrane, Sardur, Seduisant, Template namespace initialisation script, Timneu22, Toddst1, Ucuha, Umeshsrinivasan, UtherSRG, Vanished User 4517, Voyevoda, Vuong Ngan Ha, Woohookitty, WriterHound, XNemesis94, Yadavghimirey, 57 anonymous edits

Image Sources, Licenses and Contributors

file:Asian Golden cat.jpg *Source:* http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Asian_Golden_cat.jpg *License:* Creative Commons Attribution-Sharealike 2.0 *Contributors:* Karen Stout

file:Status iucn3.1 NT.svg *Source:* http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Status_iucn3.1_NT.svg *License:* unknown *Contributors:* Pengo

file:Distibution map of Asian Golden Cat.svg *Source:* http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Distibution_map_of_Asian_Golden_Cat.svg *License:* Public Domain *Contributors:* BlankMap-World-v2.svg: Harbin derivative work: Abujoy (talk)

File:Fishing&goldencatskulls.png *Source:* <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Fishing&goldencatskulls.png> *License:* Public Domain *Contributors:* Reginald Pocock (4 March 1863 - 9 August 1947)

File:Catopuma temminckii 2.jpg *Source:* http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Catopuma_temminckii_2.jpg *License:* Creative Commons Attribution-Sharealike 3.0 *Contributors:* User:Umeshsrinivasan

File:Asiatische-Goldkatze-Catopuma-temminckii-tier-katze-0001 2.JPG *Source:*

http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Asiatische-Goldkatze-Catopuma-temminckii-tier-katze-0001_2.JPG *License:* Creative Commons Attribution-Sharealike 3.0,2.5,2.0,1.0 *Contributors:* Babirusa

License

Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported
[//creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)