



FactFile

Asian palm civet

(*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*)

The Asian palm civet is a small mammal native to South and Southeast Asia.

Size

Body length ranges from 17 to 28 inches with a tail length of 16 to 26 inches

Weight

Range from 2 to 5 kg

Appearance

The Asian palm civet is a small mammal with a long furry tail and a pointed snout. Its long, stocky body is covered with coarse, shaggy hair that is usually greyish in colour. The Asian palm civet has black markings on its feet, ears and muzzle and three rows of black markings on its body.

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Diet

Asian palm civets are omnivores with a broad diet ranging from rats and insects to fruits such as berries, mangos and bananas. They have a fondness for sweet tasting palm flower sap and coffee cherries.

Behaviour

Asian palm civets are believed to lead a solitary lifestyle, except for brief periods during mating. They are well adapted for living in forests and enjoy climbing trees. They are mainly nocturnal, coming out at night, dawn and dusk.

Habitat

Asian palm civets can be found in the temperate and tropical forests of South and South East Asia.

Threats and status

Asian palm civets are believed to be one of the most common of the civet species. However, growing demand for civet coffee, (known in Indonesia as 'Kopi Luwak') has led to an increase in civets being captured from the wild and fed coffee beans to produce this unusual blend. The impact of this demand on wild civet populations is unknown but may constitute a significant threat, especially as this species is also targeted in hunts for the bush meat and the pet trade and persecuted by crop growers in parts of its range.



Coffee cherry plants



A caged civet on a 'civet farm'



Civet coffee 'Kopi Luwak'



Sources: Duckworth, J.W., Widmann P., Custodio, C., Gonzalez, J.C., Jennings, A. & Veron, G. 2008. *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*. In: IUCN 2013. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2013.1. <www.iucnredlist.org>. Downloaded on 13 August 2013. <http://www.arkive.org/common-palm-civet/paradoxurus-hermaphroditus/image-G94741.html>

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