

# Records of Spotted Linsang *Prionodon pardicolor* from Barsey Rhododendron Sanctuary, Sikkim, India

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## Abstract

Spotted Linsang *Prionodon pardicolor* was described from Sikkim, but there are few subsequent records from the state. Three camera-trap records from Barsey Rhododendron Sanctuary in April 2012 constitute only the second photographic record of this species from India.

**Keywords:** altitudinal range, camera-trapping, nocturnal, northeast India, Prionodontidae

Spotted Linsang *Prionodon pardicolor* inhabits much of north and central Southeast Asia, southern China, Nepal and northeast India (Van Rompaey 1995, Holden & Neang 2009, Redford *et al.* 2011). Although *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* categorises it as a Least Concern species (Duckworth *et al.* 2008), it is included under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, providing it with absolute legal protection. In India, Spotted Linsang has been reported only from the northeastern states, widely but sporadically, as reviewed by Lyngdoh *et al.* (2011) and Mahar & Kaul (2012).

Sikkim is the type locality of Spotted Linsang (Wozencraft 2005) but there seem to be few subsequent records from the state. During recent camera-trapping (using Cuddeback Attack units) at the Barsey Rhododendron Sanctuary (Barsey RS; Ghose *et al.* in prep.), Spotted Linsang was photographed three times at two locations about 1.03 km apart (Fig. 1, Table 1).

Spotted Linsang has apparently been camera-trapped only once previously in India: at Namdapha National Park, Arunachal Pradesh (Mohammed Firoz Ahmed verbally 2012). The closest previous record to Barsey RS is not clear; there are several 19th century specimens from Darjeeling, West Bengal (e.g. Van Rompaey 1995), about 25 km away, but their exact collection loca-

tions are not known. Van Rompaey (1995) gave an upper altitudinal limit of at least 2,700 m, 300 m below the Sallery Ridge record (at 3,014 m measured altitude). However, there are two historical records with given altitudes much higher than 2,700 m. Both are from Sikkim: from Latching in the Jellap pass, at 13,000' (= about 4,000 m; Pocock 1939), and from Jeluk, Lingtam (Sanborn 1932), apparently at 10,500' (= 3,200 m; J. W. Duckworth *in litt.* 2012).



**Fig. 1.** Spotted Linsang *Prionodon pardicolor* records at Barsey Rhododendron Sanctuary, Sikkim, India; (above) and (right top) at Sallery Ridge, (right bottom) at Sallery Nursery.

**Table 1.** Camera-trapped Spotted Linsangs *Prionodon pardicolor* in Barsey Rhododendron Sanctuary, Sikkim, India.

Location	Lat. N <sup>1</sup>	Long. E <sup>1</sup>	Recorded Altitude <sup>2</sup>	Habitat type	N° photos <sup>3</sup>	Date and time
Sallery Nursery	27°12'34.95"	88°04'27.52"	2,569 m	Oak forest	1	30 April 2012, 23h44
Sallery Ridge	27°13'5.26"	88°04'40.48"	3,014 m	Mixed conifer forest	2	14 March 2012, 00h17; 19 April 2012, 00h58

<sup>1</sup>Coordinates were recorded from a Garmin GPS 72 receiver set to the datum WGS84.

<sup>2</sup>Altitude was measured using the GPS receiver, validated with a Sunoh SAL 7030 altimeter.

<sup>3</sup>The animals photographed at Sallery Ridge are two different individuals.

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