



LINSANG

BANDED LINSANG

Scientific Name *Prionodon linsang* Hardwick, 1821

Head & Body 35 - 45 cm.

Tail 31 - 42 cm.

Weight 0.7 kg. or 700 g.

Shape & Colour The banded linsang has a very long slim body and tail, but the legs are short. When they walk on a branch, they look like a snake. The ground colour of the coat is white or brownish yellow. Ground colour coat of the banded linsangs is lighter than the spotted linsangs with 5 black stripes on the back and two stripes on the sides of the neck and body. There are 7 black rings alternating with the ground colour of the tail. They do not have scent glands. Claws are retractile as in the cats.

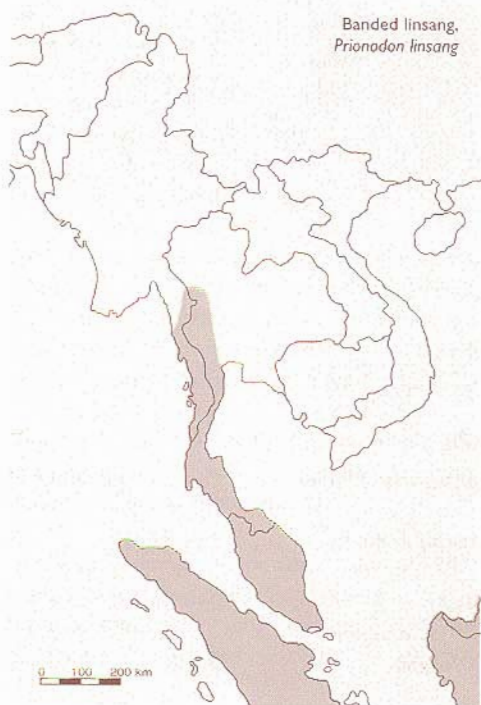


Distribution

They spread from the Tenassarim Range in the south of Thailand to the Malay peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo, Java and the small islands nearby.

Variation

Prionodon linsang linsang Harwicke 1821: found in Thailand, Myanmar and Malay peninsula.



Prionodon linsang gracilis Horsfield 1822: found in Java and Borneo Island.

Prionodon linsang fredericae Sody 1936: found in Bangka Island (Indonesia).

Prionodon linsang interliniurus Sody 1949: found in Beliton Island, Sumatra (Indonesia).

Ecology & Behavior

They are solitary and nocturnal. They can climb trees very well and are generally arboreal, but

sometimes they hunt on the ground as well. A large proportion of their food is big insects, rats, small birds, snakes, squirrels, frogs and any other small animals which they can catch. During the day, they sleep in a tree hole or on the ground. It was reported that they live in the forest edge and in secondary forest. However, a picture of this animal was taken in the dry evergreen forest of the Khlong Saeng wildlife sanctuary, in the south of Thailand (Kanchanasaka, unpublished data). The breeding season is during February to August. Litter size is two. A banded linsang was found with its babies during May and October (Nowak, 1991), in its nest made of plants, on the ground.

SPOTTED LINSANG

Scientific Name	<i>Prionodon pardicolor</i> Hadgson, 1841
Head & Body	35 - 37 cm.
Tail	31 - 34 cm.
Weight	0.7 kg.
Shape & Colour	Spotted linsang closely resemble Banded linsang in shape, size and habit, but the coat color pattern is different. The colour of the occiput and on the top of the body is light brown. The colour of the sides of the body is buffy-olivaceous or brownish orange. A black stripe starts from the occiput to the shoulders. They have dark brown dots on the back, the sides of the body, the shoulders and the thighs, but these dots are not



gathered in a form of stripe or line like in the banded linsangs. On the tail, there are 8-9 black and white rings while the tail of a banded linsang has 7 rings. Both male and female do not have a scent gland.

Distribution

They are found in Nepal, Sikkim, Assam of India, southern China, northern Myanmar, northern Thailand, Laos and Vietnam.

Variation

Prionodon pardicolor pardicolor Hodgson 1841: found in Assam and northern Myanmar.

Prionodon pardicolor presina Thomas 1925: found in Thailand, Vietnam and Laos.

Ecology & Behavior

They live in the mountainous area of 150-2,700 meter above sea level. They seem to spend most of their time in the trees, but Peacock (1939) reported that they travel sometimes on the ground. They usually live alone and are nocturnal hunters. They deliver their babies in a decaying tree hole. They hunt very small animals such as small mammals, small birds, and insects for their food. The breeding season is from February to

August. They have 2 babies at a time. They deliver their babies usually in a tree-hole which also is a nursery site for the young. Kuznetzov and Barananuskas (1993) commented that the spotted linsangs usually live in a lower shrub layer. They are adapted to be able to hunt small prey such as bird and rat in the shrub layer very well.

