

Rusty Spotted Cat

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Rusty Spotted Cat Latest News

Recently, for the first time in Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) and Haryana, a rusty-spotted cat has been photographed.

About Rusty Spotted Cat

- It is the world's **smallest and lightest known cat**.
- **Appearance**
 - It weighs less than 1.5 kilograms and is 20 to 29 inches in length, about half the size of a domestic cat.
 - Its large eyes may be an adaptation to its **nocturnal behaviour**.
- **Habitat:** It prefers **moist and dry deciduous forests**, scrublands, grasslands, and rocky areas.
- **Distribution:** It is found in **India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka**. In India, its range extends from Tamil Nadu to Jammu and Kashmir, including Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Odisha.
- **Characteristics**
 - It is a very active and agile and extremely fierce cat.

- It is **primarily nocturnal**, resting in dense cover during the daytime.
- Like other cats, Rusty-spotted **cats mark their territory with urine**.
- It is an **excellent climber**, which allows it to catch birds.
- **Diet:** It also preys on rodents, lizards, frogs and insects.
- **Threats:** Habitat loss, farm expansion, and industrial growth threaten nearly 75% of its range.
- **Conservation Status**
 - **IUCN:** Near Threatened
 - **CITES:** Appendix I
 - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I

Source: TH

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