

Alpine Musk Deer

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Alpine Musk Deer Latest News

A Central Zoo Authority report reveals a mix-up in identifying the Alpine musk deer for conservation breeding, mistakenly initiating programs for the Himalayan musk deer instead.

About Alpine Musk Deer

- The **Alpine musk deer (Moschus chrysogaster)** is a musk deer species found only in Asia.
- It is not a true deer, but rather its family is closely related to Bovidae, the group that contains antelopes, bovines, sheep, and goats.
- It is generally **solitary and a crepuscular animal**.
- **Alpine musk deer** is named for having an externally visible musk sac between the male testes. Its **fangs grow during mating season** and are used for sparring with other males.
- **Habitat:** It inhabits coniferous **and deciduous forests** in the mountain regions at elevations of **3,000-5,000 m**.

- **Diet:** It is a **ruminant herbivore**, foremost a browser and feeds mainly on forbs, grasses, moss, lichens, and shoots, leaves and twigs of shrubs.
- **Distribution:** It is mainly found in **India, Nepal, Bhutan and China**.
- **Conservation Status**
 - **IUCN: Endangered**
 - **CITES:** Appendix I
 - **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I
- **Threats:** The main threat to the Alpine musk deer is **poaching for its musk**, which is used in cosmetic products.

Source: DTE

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/alpine-musk-deer/>

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