

Pallas's Cat

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Pallas's Cat Latest News

A wildlife survey conducted in Arunachal Pradesh has brought out first-ever photographic evidence of the elusive Pallas's cat in the state.

About Pallas's Cat

- The Pallas's cat (*Otocolobus manul*) is a small wild cat well camouflaged and adapted to the **cold continental climate in its native range**.
- It was named Pallas's cat after Peter Simon Pallas, who first described it in 1776 based on specimens collected near Lake Baikal, Russia.

Distribution of Pallas's Cat

- They are primarily found in Central Asia, with their range extending to western Iran, Mongolia, China, Russia (on the border of Mongolia and China), Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan.

- Habitat: It inhabits rocky **montane grasslands and shrublands**, where the snow cover is below 15-20 cm and preys foremost on lagomorphs and rodents.

Features of Pallas's Cat

- It is a soft-furred animal about the size of a house cat and is pale silvery gray or light brown in colour.
- The Pallas's cat is distinguished by a broad head with **high-set eyes and low-set ears**.
- The end of its tail is ringed and tipped with black, and some individuals have vague, dark markings on the body.
- The fur of the underparts is about twice as long as that of the upper parts and possibly represents an adaptation to the cat's **habitual lying and crouching on cold ground**.

Conservation Status of Pallas's Cat

- **IUCN Red List:** Least Concern
- **CITES:** Appendix II

Source: TOI

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