



## Research Note I

### *Manis pentadactyla* L. in Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary and Fambonglho Wildlife Sanctuary in the Sikkim Himalaya

The Sikkim Himalaya is the habitat of *Manis pentadactyla* L. at the mid hills of sub temperate to Sub-alpine zones of Sikkim. It has nocturnal habit and survives eating ants, insects, dead animals etc. Locally, it is also known as 'Kalo Salak' in Nepali language. It is distributed in the several parts of the world like Bangladesh, China, Bhutan, Thailand, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Myanmar etc (Jnawali *et al.*, 2011; Khatiwada, 2016).

The distribution of the scaly anteater, *Manis pentadactyla* L., recorded in Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary and Fambonglho Wildlife Sanctuary in Sikkim in the recent study. These sanctuaries are interconnected in the Eastern part of Sikkim. During the field study, the animal was sighted near the stream across the south and west facing hills at the forest fringe areas of Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary and Fambonglho Wildlife sanctuary, passing across the forests.

**Distribution:** INDIA: Sikkim: Pangolakha Wildlife Sanctuary and Fambonglho Wildlife Sanctuary.

**Preserved Specimen examined:** QCLHARC SK000001, Forest Secretariat, Gangtok, Sikkim; Collector: Unknown Collector, deposited at SSFH.

**Synonyms:** *Manis auritus* (Hodgson, 1836); *Phateges bengalensis* (Fitzinger, 1872), *Pholidotus assamensis* (Fitzinger, 1872).

**Status:** Critically Endangered species under IUCN red list category (IUCN, 2020)

#### **Habitat:**

The habitat of this species mostly covered with following species namely, *Spondias mangifera* Wild., *Osbeckia stellata* Wall, *Phoebe attenuate* Nees, *P. hainesiana* Br.; *Pieris ovalifolia* Don, *Quercus spicata* Smith, *Glochidion lanceolarium* Dalz., *Elaeocarpus lanceaefolius* Roxb., *Rhus griffithii* Hk.f., *Rhus insignis* Hk., *Rhus succedanea* Linn., *Ehretia acuminata* R.Br.; *Ehretia wallichiana* Hk.f & T., *Quercus lamellosa* Smith, *Michelia cathacartii* Hk.f & T; *Michelia champaca* Linn; *Michelia dulstopa* Buch. Hamex DC; *Michelia montana* Blume., *Michelia punduana* Hk.f & T., *Macropanax undulatum* Seem; *Pentapanax leshcenaultii* Seem; *Schefflera impressa* (C.B. Clarke) Harms., *Quercus laneaefolia* Roxb; *Quercus pachphylla* Kurz, *Castanopsis hystrix* A.D.C; *Castanopsis indica* A.DC; *Castanopsis tribuloides* A.DC, *Machilus edulis* King; *Machilus gamblei* King, *Machilus gammieana* King., *Machilus glaucescens* Nees; *Machilus kurzii* King; *Machillus villosa* Hk.f., *Evodia fraxinifolia* Hook.f., *Evodia meliaefolia* Benth., *Symplossos caudate* Wall.,

*Symplosos dryothila* C.b.C., *Morus alba* Linn; *Morus indica* L.; *Morus laevigata* Wall., *Kydia calycina* Roxb; *Kydia jujubifolia* Griff., *Magnolia campbelli* Hk.f., *Duabanga sonneratioides* Ham., *Machilus edulis* King., *Macaranga denticulate* Muell. Arg; *Macaranga gmelinaefolia* King; *Macaranga indica* Wight., *Mallotus albus* Meuell . Arg, *Engelhardtia spicata* Bl., *Juglans regia* Linn., *Acer laevigatum* Wall., *Quercus glauca* Thumb., *Quercus lineate* Blume., *Erythrina arbrescens* Roxb., *Symingtonia populnea* (R.Br. Ex. Griff.) van Steenis., *Larix griffithii* Hk.f., *Alnus nepalensis* D.Don etc.

Thus, this study is to record the presence of *Manis pentadactyla* L in the Sikkim Himalaya along with habitat as it is significant to conserve that has the pivotal role in the ecology of Sikkim. Further, the systematic planning of conservation of this species is need of the hour.



**Fig 1:** Specimen **QCLHARC SK000001**, Forest Secretariat, Gangtok,Sikkim.

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