

Chinese Pangolin

 **DOMAIN**
Eukaryota

 **KINGDOM**
Animalia

 **PHYLUM**
Chordata

 **CLASS**
Mammalia

 **ORDER**
Pholidota

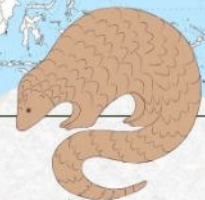
 **FAMILY**
Manidae

 **GENUS**
Manis

 **SPECIES**
Manis
pentadactyla

WHERE DO THEY HANG OUT?

Chinese pangolins inhabit Southeast Asia's forests and grasslands, particularly in China, India, Nepal, and Bhutan, where they use sharp claws to dig burrows for shelter and foraging.



A LOOK FOR THE SPOTLIGHT!

The Chinese pangolin is covered in overlapping keratin scales, which act as armor against predators. They can curl into a tight ball when threatened, exposing only their tough, scaly exterior. Adults can weigh 10-15 pounds and measure up to 2 feet long. Their small, pointed faces and long, sticky tongues are perfectly designed for eating ants and termites.



WHAT'S ON THE MENU?



Pangolins are insectivores, with a diet primarily consisting of ants and termites.

Their long, sticky tongues can extend deep into insect nests. Their claws are specialized for tearing apart tree bark or soil to access insects.



Extinct

EX

Threatened

EW

CR

EN

VU

NT

LC

Least Concern

MASTER OF STEALTH AND CAMOUFLAGE

Chinese pangolins are nocturnal and highly elusive, relying on their keen sense of smell to find food in the dark. Their shy and solitary nature has earned them the nickname "silent forest guardians." When threatened, they curl into a ball, making them nearly impervious to predators—except humans.

PANGOLIN FAMILIES

Breeding peaks during the wet season. After a gestation period of about 140 days, females give birth to a single offspring. The young pangolins stay with their mother for a few months, often riding on her tail for protection.



THREATS TO THEIR SURVIVAL



Habitat loss



Illegal
wildlife
trade



Poaching

Chinese pangolins are critically endangered due to:

- **Habitat Loss:** Forest clearing for agriculture and urbanization.
- **Illegal Wildlife Trade:** Pangolin scales are falsely believed to have medicinal properties.
- **Poaching:** Their meat is considered a delicacy in some regions.

Despite international laws protecting pangolins, they remain the most trafficked mammal in the world. Conservation efforts are critical to ensure their survival.



[Image via Wikipedia Commons](#)



5 FUN FACTS ABOUT CHINESE PANGOLINS

- The word "pangolin" comes from the Malay word pengguling, meaning "one who rolls up."
- Pangolin scales are made of keratin, the same protein found in human nails and hair.
- A single pangolin can consume up to 70 million ants in one year.
- Pangolins are the only mammals entirely covered in scales.
- They lack teeth and rely on gravel in their stomachs to help digest food.

