

FIRST CAPTIVE BORN SUNDA PANGOLIN (*Manis javanica* DESMAREST, 1822) IN MALAYSIA

**Cosmas Ngau¹, Hafizul Fahmi¹, Mohamad Faizal¹, Yusoff Shariff²,
Zubaidah Kamarudin³, Rahmat Topani⁴, Abdul Kadir Abu Hashim⁵
& *Jeffrine Japning Rovie-Ryan^{4,6}**

¹*Sungkai Wildlife Conservation Centre, Department of Wildlife and National Parks (PERHILITAN) Peninsular Malaysia, 35600 Sungkai, Perak, Malaysia.*

²*PERHILITAN Perak, Tingkat 3, Blok C, Wisma Persekutuan, Jalan Dato' Seri Ahmad Said, Greentown 30450 Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia.*

³*National Wildlife Rescue Centre, PERHILITAN, 35600 Sungkai Perak, Malaysia.*

⁴*Ex-situ Conservation Division, PERHILITAN Headquarters, Km 10 Jalan Cheras, 56100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.*

⁵*Office of The Director General, PERHILITAN Headquarters, Km 10 Jalan Cheras, 56100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.*

⁶*Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, University Malaysia Sarawak, 94300 Kota Samarahan, Sarawak.*

*Corresponding author's email: rjeffrine@unimas.my

Received (7-August-2020); Accepted (26-September-2020); Available Online (15-August-2021).

Citation: First captive born Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica* Desmarest, 1822) in Malaysia. (2021). Ngau, C., Fahmi, H., Faizal, M., Shariff, Y., Kamarudin, Z., Topani, R., Hashim, A.K.A. & Rovie-Ryan, J.J. *Journal of Wildlife and Parks*, **36**: 95-103.

Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica* Desmarest, 1822), also known as Malayan or Javan pangolin, is one of four species of pangolin available in Asia that includes Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata* E. Geoffroy, 1803), Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla* Linnaeus, 1758), and Philippine pangolin (*Manis culionensis* de Elera, 1915). The remaining four species are from the African lineage, which are the white-bellied pangolin (*Phataginus tricuspis* Rafinesque, 1821), African black-bellied pangolin (*Phataginus tetradactyla* Linnaeus, 1766), Giant pangolin (*Smutsia gigantea* Illiger, 1815), and Temminck's pangolin (*Smutsia temminckii* Smuts, 1832). Figure 1 shows the species ranges of the pangolin species on the African and Asian continents. *Manis javanica*, in particular, can be found

throughout Southeast Asia (SEA), occurring at both mainland (Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Peninsular Malaysia, and Singapore) and insular SEA, including Borneo (Brunei, Indonesia, and Malaysia), Sumatra, and Java (Challender *et al.*, 2019a).

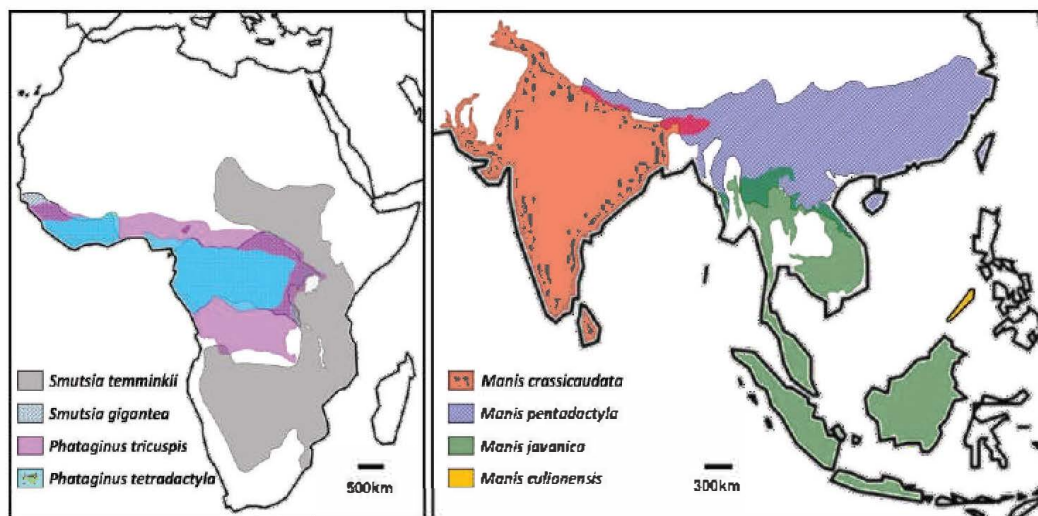


Figure 1. Pangolin species ranges across the African and Asian continent. Source: Challender *et al.* (2019a; 2019b); Ingram *et al.* (2019); Mahmood *et al.* (2019); Nixon *et al.* (2019); Pietersen *et al.* (2019a; 2019b); Schoppe *et al.* (2019).

As a result of overexploitation from hunting, poaching, and illegal wildlife trades to supply the demands for traditional medicines and bushmeat markets as well as habitat loss and degradation, all pangolin species are now threatened with extinction (Challender *et al.*, 2019a, 2019b; Ingram *et al.*, 2019; Mahmood *et al.*, 2019; Nixon *et al.*, 2019; Pietersen *et al.*, 2019a, 2019b; Schoppe *et al.*, 2019). Both the IUCN Red List and Red List of Mammals for Peninsular Malaysia categorised *M. javanica* as ‘Critically Endangered’ whereby all its range countries showed drastic population decline (Challender *et al.*, 2019a; DWNP, 2017). Therefore, conservation efforts, including *ex situ* conservation programmes are needed (Chong *et al.*, 2016) to prevent this species from becoming extinct, especially in Malaysia.

It is extremely hard to keep pangolins in captivity (Challender *et al.*, 2012; Hua *et al.*, 2015). At present, only three species are subjected to *ex situ* conservation programmes, namely; (1) *M. pentadactyla* (Challender *et al.*, 2019b), (2) *M. crassicaudata* (Mahmood *et al.*, 2019), and *M. javanica* (Challender *et al.*,