

A Spotted Linsang *Prionodon pardicolor* observation from eastern Thailand

M. C. BAKER¹, W. J. MCSHEA¹, N. BHUMPAKPAN², R. SUKMASUANG², N. SISURUK², K. SIRIPATTARANUKUL² and J. G. HOWARD¹

Abstract

A Spotted Linsang *Prionodon pardicolor* camera-trapped on 27 January 2012 in Ta Phraya National Park is the most south-easterly record of the species in Thailand.

Keywords: camera-trapping, Dong Phrayayen–Khao Yai Forest Complex, extension of known range, Prionodontidae, Ta Phraya National Park

การพบชะมดแปลงลายจุด *Prionodon pardicolor* ในพื้นที่ด้านตะวันออกของประเทศไทย

บทคัดย่อ

ชะมดแปลงลายจุด *Prionodon pardicolor* ถูกพบจากการใช้กล้องดักถ่ายภาพเมื่อวันที่ 27 มกราคม

2555 ในพื้นที่อุทยานแห่งชาติตาพระยาจากตำแหน่งที่พบปรากฏอยู่ทางขอบนอกสุดทางด้านตะวันออก

เฉียงใต้ของประเทศไทยนามธรรม

Spotted Linsang *Prionodon pardicolor* is a semi-arboreal small carnivore found in much of non-Sundaic South-east Asia, north-east India and southern China (Van Rompaey 1995, Lau *et al.* 2010). It is either rare or elusive in Thailand, because there have been few sightings or collected specimens there, and even current technology (camera-traps) has low detection rates (Lekagul & McNeely 1977, Van Rompaey 1995, Redford *et al.* 2011). The few Thai detections of Spotted Linsang have occurred in several habitat types (forest, grassland, and a mix of scrub and cultivation including plantations), over the elevation range of 560–1,400 m (Van Rompaey 1995, Tizard 2002, Redford *et al.* 2011). Due to the species's perceived tolerance of disturbed habitat and of hunting, Spotted Linsang is listed as Least Concern by *The IUCN Red List of Threatened*

Species (Duckworth *et al.* 2008). Its nocturnal and somewhat arboreal habits hinder direct observation, and little is known about the species, including its conservation status (Van Rompaey 1995).

Ta Phraya National Park, established in 1996, is one of five reserves that comprise eastern Thailand's Dong Phrayayen and Khao Yai Forest Complex (DPKY). The park covers 615 km² of legally protected land consisting of 75% dry evergreen forest and 25% grassland and scrub (UNEP WCMC 2004). Its long border for its size means that poaching is among the largest threats to its biodiversity (UNEP WCMC 2004).

During a survey for small carnivores within Thailand, we detected a Spotted Linsang on 27 January 2012 at 23h33 with a Reconyx PM75 remote-sensing camera (Fig. 1). It was photographed in dry evergreen forest at 14°07'24.24"N, 102°30'29.88"E (datum WGS84) at approximately 560 m elevation. The species was detected after three months of trapping with 2,504 camera-trap-nights overall and 26 trap-nights at the detection location. No baits or lures were used. The protected area's only previous camera-trap survey, of 985 trap-nights, did not detect Spotted Linsang (Lynam *et al.* 2006). Recently, Redford *et al.* (2011) recorded Spotted Linsang four times in the neighbouring Thap Lan and Pang Sida National Parks, both within the DPKY forest complex. These latter records extended the species's known Thai distribution south, and this record in Ta Phraya National Park extends it eastward by at least 30 km. It is, however, known further to the south-east, in Cambodia (e.g. Holden & Neang 2009).

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Fig. 1. Spotted Linsang *Prionodon pardicolor* camera-trapped in Ta Phraya National Park, Thailand, on 27 January 2012 at 23h33. Photo has been magnified and cropped.

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**¹Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
1500 Remount Rd. Front Royal, VA 22630, U.S.A.**

Email: Bakermc@si.edu

**²Department of Forest Biology, Kasetsart University,
Bangkok 10900,
Thailand.**