

Henner, H. (1972) Uncia uncia. Mammalian Species 20: 1-5. American Society of Mammalogists.

Page 3: " Generally the snow leopard lives in high mountain regions from the belt of alpine meadows, treeless rocks and snow deposits to the belts of juniper and spruce forests, and bush vegetation. Especially during the winter, it may descend to lower zones, whereas in some regions it inhabits constantly these lower altitudes (Novikov, 1956; Ognev, 1935). Obviously, individuals have expanded hunting grounds through which they roam regularly in the course of about one week (Ognev, 1935; Schaposchnikov, 1956). Regular movements from one part of an individual range to another may depend on climatic conditions such as snow fall and rain (Ionov, 1929 cited by Ognev, 1935). Seasonal migrations from higher to lower zones may depend on climatic conditions and on the movement of ungulate herds (Novikov, Ognev, Stroganov). Nothing is known concerning true territoriality. The sleeping or resting quarter is made in rocky caverns or crevices of rocks and secluded clefts; occasionally also in nests of vultures (Novikov, 1956; Stroganov, 1962).

The snow leopard preys mainly upon wild mountain goats and sheep; in low altitudes it hunts deer and boars; in the Akatu Mountains it feeds on Persian gazelles. Small animals, including marmots and pikas, are also eaten. Concerning domestic animals, it attacks especially goats and sheep, but sometimes also dogs, cattle and young ponies. Schaposchnikov (1956) reported the killing and eating of a 2 year old bear."