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Genus UNCIA Gray

Dr. Regu

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1854

1854. *Uncia* Gray J., Annals and Magaz. of Natur. History, Ser. 2, vol. XIV, p. 394; Severtzov N., Notice sur la classification multiser. des Carnivores; special. des Felides etc., Revue et Magasin de Zoologie X, Paris, 1858, p. 386; Gray J., Catalogue of Carnivorous etc., Mammalia in British Museum, 1869, p. 8.

1868. *Panthera* Fitzinger L.J., Revision der zur natürl. Familie der Katzen gehör. Formen, Sitzungsber. der Akademie der Wissensch., Wien, VIII, S. 478 (partim).

1895. *Leopardus* Matschie P., Die geographische Verbreitung der Katzen and ihre Verwandtschaft untereinander, Sitz.-Berichte, der Gesellsch., naturforsch. Freunde zu Berlin, 1895, No. 10, S. 198 (partim); Trouessart E.L., Catalogue Mammalium I, p. 353 (partim); Satunin, K.A. Opredelitel' mlekopitayushchikh (Key to Mammals). - 1: 161. 1914.

1917. *Uncia* Pocock R., The Classification of existing Felidae, The Annals and Magazine of Natural History, Ser. 8, vol. 20, No. 119: 333.

Large cats of generally smoky-gray-brownish color with pattern of large somewhat blurred rosettelike spots scattered on the entire body. Compact smaller spots visible among rosettes. Pattern on the head consists sole of the latter marks.

Body elongate. Powerful limbs of moderate length. Ears short, rounded without tufts at tips. Mane and cheek whiskers undeveloped. Tail more than 3/4 of length of entire body and appears very furry and thick. Claws very strong, semilunar in form, markedly compressed laterally, sharp and retractile. Pupil round. Relatively large skull markedly shortened and broadened in region of brain case.

Moderately expanded in anterior portion between canines. Frontal area markedly convex, with appreciable medial depression. Orbits oval, slightly elongated, and set at oblique angle to frontal plane of skull. Bluntly rounded process extends internally from jugal bone, falling far short of lacrymal foramen. Entire lower edge of orbit formed by maxilla and jugal bone with rounded outline anteriorly and without angle at upper edge of interorbital foramen. Height of lower edge of orbit measured in perpendicular line through infraorbital foramen somewhat smaller (2/5) than width of interorbital distance.

Infraorbital foramen ovally elongated and set with slight internal inclination (upper portion). Longitudinal diameter of this aperture almost twice as large as transverse. Perpendicular diameter almost equal to or slightly greater than width of partition between aperture and orbit.

Nasal processes of jaw bones quite narrow, compressed superiorly, resembling acute angles. Nasal processes of frontal and premaxillaries fall far short of one another (approximately by 2/3 of width of nasals in medial portion).

262 Width between anterior edges of nasals approximately equal to half of width of brain case behind postorbital process. Maximum length of nasals, measuring anteriolateral protrusions, somewhat greater than half of width of skull anterior to mastoid process. Palate short, width approximately 4/5 of length. Posterior palatal incisure has two medial protrusions,

Presphenoid broad, short, with two marked lateral alate appendages.

Distances between external edges of canine alveoli approximately 2/3 of that between ends of postorbital process.

Osseous bullae of moderate length, not thick-walled, but very flat. Anterior chambers markedly flattened. Edge of anterior chamber falls far short of posterior process of jaw articulation. Line which indistinctly separates anterior and posterior auditory chambers begins markedly internally to, and terminates markedly internally to edge of foramen of Eustachian tube, i. e., extends with great internal displacement. Bullae widely separated, but due to relatively very great width of mesopterygoid fossae, distance between bullae is 1 1/6 times as large as width of these fossae.

- 262 Jugular foramina (lacera posteriores) relatively small and rounded. Width of external auditory meatus 2/3 of alveolus of upper canine. Coronoid process tapers markedly upward. Relatively small condyloid process measured transversely is hardly larger than half of overall length of molars and premolars of one side of the lower jaw. First premolar teeth in upper jaw always present. Upper canines large. Height of canines approximately 2/3 of length of entire molar-premolar row. Upper carnassials very large. Fifth small cusp on anterior external corner of this tooth undeveloped.

DENTAL FORMULA:  $i \frac{3}{3}; c \frac{1}{1}; pm. \frac{3}{3}; m. \frac{1}{1} = (3\overset{2}{\phi})$ .

TYPE SPECIES: *Felis uncia* Schreb.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF GENUS: Covers Central Asiatic mountains from Kopet-Dagh, North Iran, and eastwards, extending along Pamir Mountains, Turkestan, Gilgit, Tibet, Himalayas, to Kam. Northward the Siberian ounce or snow leopard is encountered on the Tarbagatai, Altai and Sayan Mountains, and east as far as Yablonovyi and Stanovoi Mountain Ranges, perhaps reaching the confluence of the Shilka and Argun' in former Amur Region. Is found vertically to 20,000 feet in the Himalayas.

Only a single species is included in this genus.

- 263 281. *Uncia uncia* Schreber. Siberian snow leopard or Siberian ounce  
1778. (Plate VI, Figures 115-120)

1778. *Felis uncia* Schreber Ch. L., Säugetiere, III, tab. 100; in the text of page 386 under the name of the Ounce.

1811-1831. *Felis pardus* Pallas P., Zoographia Rosso-Asiatica, p. 17-15.

1830. *Felis irbis* Ehrenberg C.G., Observations et données nouvelles sur le Tigre du nord et la Panthere du nord, recueillies dans le voyage de Sibirie fait par M. A. de Humboldt, Annales des sciences nat., Paris, p. 394-413 (terra typica - Alatau).

1855. *Felis uncioides* Horsfield, Annals and Magazine Natur. History, ser. 2, vol. XVI, p. 105.

1858. *Uncia irbis* Severtzow M., Notice sur la classification multiseriale des Carnivores, Revue et Mag. de Zoologie; X, p. 386.

1894. *Felis irbis* Grevé C., Die geographische Verbreitung der Raubtiere, Halle, p. 70-72.

1914. *Leopardus uncia* Satunin K.A., Opredelitel' mleicopitayushchikh (Key to Mammals). - p. 161.

NAMES: The ounce, snow leopard (English); Irbis, Schnee-Leopard (German); Once, Léopard du nord, Panthère du Nord (French).

LOCAL NAMES: "Bars" [ounce] (Russian); "aladzhibars" (Uzbek); "irbis" [Siberian ounce] (Bukharan and Mongolian); "irgis" (Kalmyk); "i'bers", "kablan" (Semirech'e); "irviz" (Kul'dzha); "afgansh" (Tatar); "khakhai" (Yakut); "kunik" (Even-Tungusic); "s'tang" (Tangat); "kaplan" "kablan" (Kazakh); "pu-pi" (Chinese); "tora" (Japanese).

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TYPE LOCALITY: The establishment of the terra typica is quite difficult. G. Buffon (Histoire Natur. 1761, vol. IX, p. 151-152, pl. 13) who was the first to describe and provide a picture of the animal, writes "La petite Panthere d'Opplent à laquelle anciens n'ont pas donne de nom particulier, mais que les voyageurs modernes ont appele Once". According to this author (l. c. p. 164), the cat lives in Persia and is trained for hunting. In 1778 Ch. L. Schreber (l. c. p. 387) provides the following range of the animal: "Barbarey, Persien, Ostindien, und China". With reference to the Barbary this is definitely an error. The Siberian ounce has never been found there; the same must also be said of East India and most of China (except the extreme northwestern part). Thus Persia remains, which is also given by Buffon in his review of the "Once". F. R. Gmelin, in Edition 13 of Systema Naturae C. Linne (1788), speaking of the range of the Siberian ounce or snow leopard in Iran, mentions Astrabad Province\*.

x Not located  
with  
Gmelin

Since the predator is encountered in the Kopet-Dagh Mountains, though rarely, it would seem to me more logical to consider the southern slopes of these mountains adjacent to Iran, to be the terra typica.

There may be some doubt as to whether it is not a mistake to include *Felis uncia* Schreber with the Siberian snow leopard, for is not this the first name according to the laws of priority for *Pardus pardus tullianus*? A. Birulya (1912) makes such an assumption. When we study the illustration of Buffon (Schreber took this same figure), we must note its great resemblance to the snow leopard. The figure itself, of course, is rather poor, and several points of resemblance to *P. p. tullianus* may be seen, but it much more closely resembles a Siberian snow leopard.

PRINCIPAL FIGURES: 1) G. L. Buffon, Histoire Natur., vol. IX, 1761, pl. 13 (colored figure); 2) Schreber Ch., Die Säugetiere, III, 1778, p. C (colored figure); 3) Simashko, Yu., Russkaya fauna (Russian Fauna), II, 1851, table 19A, Figure 2; 4) Gray J. E., Proceed Zoolog. Society of London, 1867, p. 628, fig. 1 (drawing); 5) Brehm, A., Zhizn' zhivotnykh (Life of Animals), I: 274. 1874. (halftone figure); 6) Elliot D. G., A Monograph of the Felidae or Family of the Cats, II, 1878 (color pl.); 7) Mivart St. C., The Cat, London, 1881, p. 395, fig. 166 (entire animal) p. 996, fig. 167 (skull); 8) Lydekker R. A., Handbook to the Carnivora, I, London, 1895, pl. VI (color); 9) Kobelt, V. Geografisches raspedelenie zhivotnykh (Geographical Distribution of Animals), 1903, p. 279 (figure); 10) Beddard, T., Mammalia, 1902, p. 396, fig. 195 (entire animal); 11) Rzevig, V. A., Maloizvestnye i redkie zveri Rossii (Little Known and Rare Animals of Russia), V. Irbis (Siberian Snow Leopard). - Sem'ya okhotnikov, No. 11: 248-249. 1908 (photograph); 12) Brass E., Aus dem Reiche der Pelze, 1911, S. 407, Fig., S. 410 (photograph); 13) Pocock R. J., On the tooth change, cranial characters and classification of the Snow Leopard, Ann. Magazine, Natur. History, 1916, fig. I, p. 310 (skull below osseous bullae, figure 2, p. 311 (bullae, lateral view), fig. 3 (section through bullae), fig. 4, p. 313 (same); 14) Brehm, A. Tierleben, Die Säugetiere, III, 1922, S. 46, Taf. IV, S. 79 (photograph); 15) Kashkarov, D. Zhivotnye Turkestana (Animals of Turkestan), No. 2, 1923, Figure 10 (entire animal); 16) Lydekker R., The Game Animals of India, Burma, Malaya and Tibet.-London, 1924, pp. 323-327, fig. 53, p. 325 (photograph of pelt); 17) Ognev, S. I., Barsy (Snow Leopards). - Okhotnik, No. 4: 25. 1928 (two photographs of animal); 18) Popov, V., O Barsy (Snow Leopard), l. c. 1929, No. 2: 31 (photograph of killed Siberian snow leopard); 19) Pocock R., The Panthers and onces of Asia, Journ. Bombay Natural History Societ, vol. XXXIV, No. 2, 1930, pl. XII (skull and details of its structure), pl. XIII (pelt of young), pp. 331-336; 20) Bobrinskii, N. A., Dikie koshki SSSR (Wildcats of the USSR), p. 26, Figure 6, Moscow, 1932; 21) Ognev, S. I., Uchebnik zoologii (Textbook of Zoology), p. 377, Figure 382, Moscow, 1932 (entire animal).

\* Recently R. Pocock (1930) proposed that the Altai Mountains be considered the terra typica of the Siberian snow leopard. The author assumes that Ehrenberg (1830), in Ann. Sc. Nat., XXI, pp. 394-410 describing *Felis irbis*, had a pelt of this animal from the Altai Mountains. To me it seems that it is impossible to ignore the earlier and very precise reports of former authors (Schreber and Gmelin). Guided by priority, we can find the precise typical locality of the range of the ounce or snow leopard in the descriptions of the former authors, but this does not coincide with later data by Ehrenberg.



PLATE VI. Siberian snow leopard or Siberian ounce, *Uncia uncia* Scherb.  
Illustration by V. A. Vatagin

*Fotiuba* 115 cm length body  
& head  
94 cm tail

DIAGNOSIS: External appearance and cranial features have been characterized in the description of the genus.

Overall length of skull ♂♂ 180-189; ♀ 176.7; condylobasal length ♂♂ 165-172.7 ♀ 162.2; zygomatic width ♂♂ 122-134; ♀ 127; maximum width of skull ♂♂ 79-83.5; ♀ 79; height in region of osseous bullae ♂♂ 71-75.9; ♀ 68.8; width of skull above canines ♂♂ 48-53; ♀ 50; length of upper tooththrow ♂♂ 58-63; ♀ 57 mm.

Length of body and head approximately 130 cm. Tail approximately 90 cm. Height at shoulders approximately 60 cm.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION: A large number of relatively important differences exist between the skulls of *Pardus* and *Uncia*: 1) marked shortness of skull; 2) marked elevation of frontal area; 3) shortness of nasals; 4) structure of brain case which resembles common cat of genus *Felis*; 5) different form of orbit, more rounded and surrounded posteriorly by incomplete but more marked bony ring created by relatively greater length of postorbital process and zygomatic processes and jugals extending to meet them; 6) different structure of infraorbital foramen, which is longer and smaller; 7) structure of nasal aperture rounded and shorter longitudinally; 8) structure of mesopterygoid fossa, relatively wider than in genus *Pardus*; 9) flat structure of osseous bullae with different internal structure\*; 10) shortness of palate.

General tone of color of winter fur smoke-gray-brownish (between drab-gray and avellaneous); flanks whiter and yellower (pale-drab-gray and tilleul-buff) belly whitish. Distribution of spots and details of color as follows: upper anterior muzzle light gray with light tinge of brownish (light-mouse-gray, with tendency to light drab); cheeks whitish. Four black bands around vibrissae consisting of close-set spots. Round, large dark-brown spot on each side of upper lip in area beneath point of extension of vibrissae. Eyes surrounded by gray fur (mouse-gray); black-brown, round, long spots scattered on this background. Relatively dense small black-brown spots in interorbital region against gray background, becoming larger and forming handsome pattern on back of head.

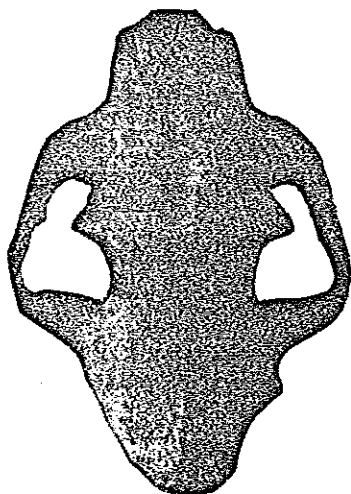


FIGURE 115. Skull of Siberian ounce *Uncia uncia* Schreb. ♂, Burkhan-Budda Mountain Range, northern slopes of Khatu Canyon, IV, 1900. Kozlov, P.K., Coll. ZMAS, No. 7687 Photograph by S.I. Ognev

Bases of ears (on back) black-brown. Medial part of ear conches smoky-gray-brown, tips black. Pattern of round brown-black spots on upper neck. Rosette-formed elongate spots like rounded long designs present on back. External thin brown-blackish ring encircles gray field of fur and another ring also encircles center gray field inside first ring. Spots particularly long on spine, their dark rims enclosing

\* See Pocock R., *Annals and Magazine of Natur. History*, ser. 8, vol. 18, No. 105, 1916, pp. 305-316.

foliata - length of hair

- belly - long hairs	60-75 mm	belly
60-99 mm	40-45 mm	tail base
brissae - 30-110 cm	35-40 mm	midback
black & white	45-50 mm	tail tip

only gray centers without additional internal rings. These rosettes close together on lower back to form kind of dense irregularly elongated design. Spots on flanks in form of rosettes but rounded and wider spaced.

266 Diameter of rosettes on back approximately 85 mm and on flanks approximately 70 mm.

Dense, irregular, black-brown marks also present on shoulder, descending toward paws in sparse pattern, but denser than on flanks, in form of minute speckles.

Very sparse irregularly oval black spots visible on white belly. Middle belly completely white. Tail very furry, smoky-gray-brown. Double

row of rosettelike long spots present on dorsal side of tail, irregularly broadening on either side to tip of tail and forming pattern of transverse rings, five or six of which may be present.

Length of hair in midback approximately 30 mm, on belly 65 mm, on tail 50 mm.

Vibrissae consist of mixture of black and white hair 105 mm long. Claws yellowish white.

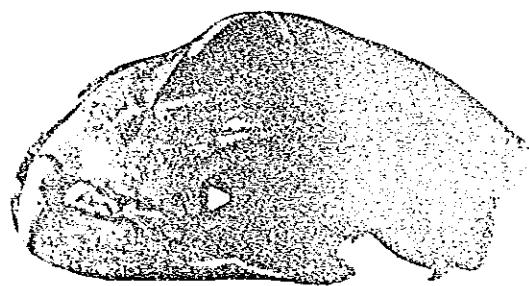


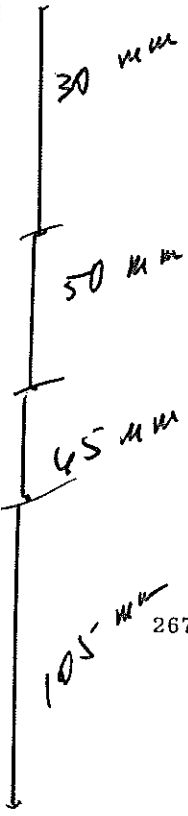
FIGURE 116. Skull of Siberian snow leopard *Uncia uncia* Schreb. ♂, Burkhan-Budda Mountain Range, Khatu Canyon, April 1900. Kozlov, P.K. Coll. ZMAS, No. 7687. Photograph by S.I. Ognev

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION: Mountains of

Central Asia may be considered the true home of the Siberian ounce or snow leopard. Despite the characteristic traits of this animal differentiating it from related cats, the range of this carnivore has not yet been clarified adequately. This applies especially to East Siberia, where most previous authors have definitely confused it with the eastern subspecies of the snow leopard. The complex problem becomes even more confused due to the unfortunate fact that not a single Russian naturalist or traveler mentioning the Siberian ounce in their descriptions of the northeastern Asiatic mountain fauna, brought back a pelt. All merely relayed reports obtained on the basis of unconfirmed rumors.

With regard to the western boundary of the range, completely accurate data are at hand only for South Turkmenia, i. e., Kopet-Dagh Mountains. Khristov (1882) first reported the Siberian snow leopard for Turkmenia. Somewhat later, in 1889, Walter and Radde were unable to confirm this report. In 1890, N.A. Zarudnyi mentioned that a Siberian ounce was found in North Persia (Iran), and on the Serakhs. K. A. Satunin (1905) gave a general and too inconcise report: "Found in the region only occasionally or very rarely." N. A. Varentsov mentioned that it occurred in Daina on the Sumbara. Finally, according to more recent data by S. I. Bil'kevich (1918), only two specimens were found during a long period of zoological excursions; one was in the mountains between Kurt-Su and Gaudan, and the other in the area of Germab (in Kopet-Dagh). With regard to the range in Iran, our information is unfortunately still highly conflicting; thus

268 Blanford (1876) saw a pelt in London which was said to have been brought from Persia. A pelt was presented to Major St. John in Shiraz which was



♀ foliata - died late November 224

obtained in the adjacent mountains. A. Birulya (1912) quite correctly doubted the reliability of these data. At any rate there is no doubt that the Siberian snow leopard's reported occurrence in South Iran requires careful checking.

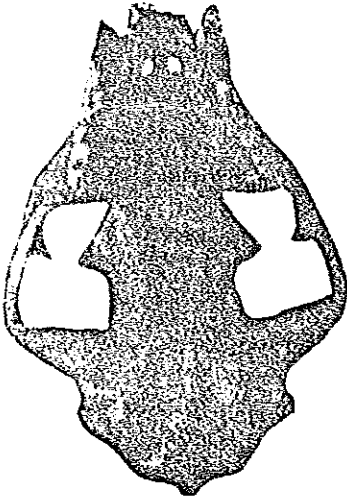


FIGURE 117. Skull of Siberian snow leopard *Uncia uncia* Schreb. ♂, Burkhan-Budda Mountain Range, Khatu Canyon, April, 1900. Kozlov, P. K. Coll. XMAS, No. 7687 Photograph by S. I. Ognev

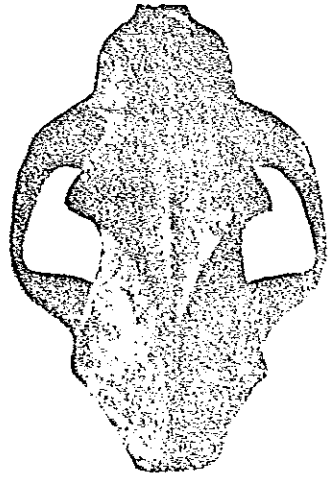


FIGURE 118. Skull of Siberian snow leopard *Uncia uncia* Schreb. ♂ (?). Western Pamirs, Commander of Pamir Military Post, Captain Shpil'no, Coll. ZMAS, No. 9423 Photograph by S. I. Ognev

With regard to Turkestan, a number of quite detailed reports are available; thus, according to N. A. Severtsov (1873) it is encountered in Semirech'e, near Talas and Susamy on the Karatau, and in the western Tien-Shan near Zeravshan. Vertically it extends from the belt of large deciduous forests (4,500 feet) to the belt of coniferous and birch trees (8,500 to 10,500 feet) and even to the subsidiary belt at heights of 10,500 to 14,000 feet.

According to N. A. Zarudnyi (1915) it is quite common in high mountains in Syr-Dar'ya Region. D. N. Kashkarov (1927) reports it for alpine meadows in mountains around Lake Sary-Chilek. N. A. Severtsov (1879) occasionally saw footprints in the Pamirs and various places from Kizyl-Arta to Alichur. Coll. ZMAS contains a specimen from Lyangar (West Pamir). According to S. Alferaki (1891), it is not found in the Ili Valley, but lives in small numbers in the Lower Kunges forests. Reported in Sharkhodza in 1879. V. N. Shnitnikov (1925) considered the Siberian snow leopard quite common in some points of the Semirech'e, at any rate much more than the tiger. According to V. Ionov (1929), it is quite common in Trans-Ili Ala Tau Mountains.

Tracing the range of the Siberian snow leopard further northeast, we find it in the Tarbagatai Mountains (W. Peters, 1877). According to Gebler (see also A. M. Nikol'skii), it is very rare on the Yassater and Chuya (Altai). Hunters of Uimon and Altai villages know nothing of it.

Professor N. F. Kashchenko reports that a specimen was found on the Argut (Central Altai) in 1897, but the carnivore is certainly very rare there. G. E. Grum-Grzhimailo (1914) considers it very rare in the Alpine zone of the Sayan and Altai Mountains. According to A. Ya. Tugarinov (1916) it is occasionally seen in the upper Kemchik River. I. N. Shukhov (1925) considers it very rare in Uriankhai Territory.

Our information on the range in the north in Siberia is highly contradictory and inaccurate. K. A. Satunin wrote (in litter.): "Northern boundary of range extends through Altai, Baikal, and Yablonovyi and Stanovoi Mountain Ranges. The range of the Amur snow leopard *Leopardus pardus orientalis* begins southeast of Stanovoi Mountain Range in the Amur region near the confluence of the Shilkha and Argun' in the lowlands".

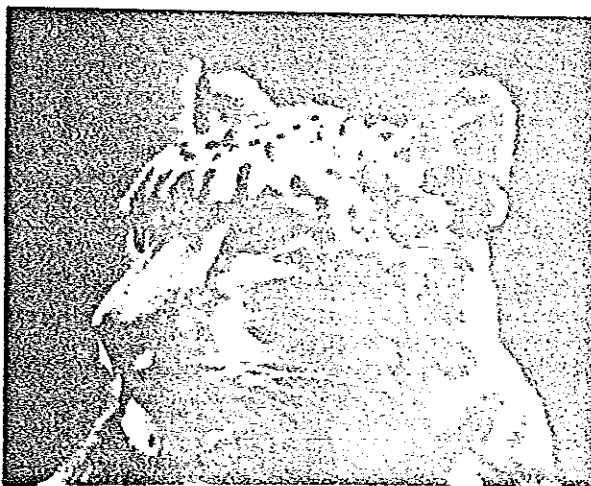


FIGURE 119. Head of Siberian snow leopard  
 Photograph by S. I. Ognev

Actually there is no exact information on the range in the Yablonovyi and Stanovoi Mountain Ranges and the question requires further careful study. It may be noted that very long ago Pallas (1811--1831), mentioned the places of occurrence of the snow leopard, i. e., vicinity of Balagansk Mountains and Olekma River (200 km from its mouth). In 1873 the Olekma-  
 269 Vitim expedition of Kropotkin and Polyakov failed to confirm these data.

In the southern parts of Central Asia it occurs in Yasinya, Nagar, and Gilgit (Scully, 1881). To the east, in Ladak (Lydekker, 1924), on the Altyn-Tag (south of Lake Lob-Nor), Blanford, 1879; south, widespread in Tibet as far as Kam (N. K. Kozlov). In the Himalayas, the southern boundary of the range of the Siberian snow leopard, it is quite abundant on the northern slopes, although it also occurs in the south where it enters the upper Indus and Sutlej valleys. In the Himalayas it lives at heights of 9,000 feet during summer (Blanford 1888). According to Lydekker (1924), it ascends even to the zone of 18,000 to 20,000 feet. In winter it descends. In Gilgit (Scully, 1881), it sometimes ascends in winter to 6,000 feet.

Major Burrard (Burrard, Big Game Hunting in the Himalaya and Tibet, p. 222, 1925) says it occurs from Hindu Kush to the eastern slopes of the



Himalayas. Common in Zaskar region (Central and West Himalayas) and occurs in limited numbers near Dalaudar and Pir-Penjal.

MODE OF LIFE: Unfortunately our information on the behavior of this interesting animal is extremely limited. The Siberian snow leopard is perfectly adapted to life in rough mountain plateaus, as shown by the length of the rich and warm fur; it often lives in the snowy zone in regions containing boulders. The predator apparently avoids forests entirely and K. A. Satunin seems quite correct in his skeptical attitude to reports of several authors that the animal waits for its prey on a tree. These reports K. A. Satunin correctly refers to the eastern snow leopard (in litter.) However, it should be noted that during winter the Siberian snow leopard occasionally descends from the hills to the coniferous forests. Such observations were made in the Trans-Ili Ala Tau. Such migrations are often regular and according to plan. Ionov (1929) says: "I chanced to see the migration of the snow leopard in a canyon of the Alma-Ata Mountains. After every snowfall in winter and rain in summer the animal regularly crossed from the eastern slope of the mountain to the valley and went over to the other hill. A few days later it returned over the same path". Several large mammals constitute the prey of the Siberian snow leopard, i. e., deer, wild goats, Himalayan taras, and smaller animals. This carnivore frequently seizes mountain marmots and pikas, so abundant in Central Asiatic plateaus.

According to D. N. Kashkarov (1927), Siberian snow leopards live in Alpine meadows in the region of Lake Sari-Chilek, inflicting great damage on the flocks of sheep there. C. H. Stockley saw the predator in the Himalayas near human habitations in winter, frequently making off with domestic sheep. The same has recently been reported by V. Ionov (1929) 270 from the Trans-Ili Ala Tau; he says the animals like to hunt domestic animals, inflicting damage on the Kirgiz nomads migrating to alpine meadows. It attacks not only sheep and goats but even cattle. A Siberian snow leopard killed a young Kirgiz horse in 1927. However such cases are rare and usually the animal attacks only sheep.

V. Ionov also gives a rather tense report on the biological traits of the animal: "I happened to see the snow leopards at play. Early one morning I went out to hunt mountain goats; fifty paces from the hut I saw a snow leopard running along the banks of a mountain stream. Suddenly it crouched on the trail as if preparing to attack, and at that moment another snow leopard approached. They reared up on their hind legs and exchanged blows with their forelimbs. One of them began to run. The second overtook it with an enormous bound. They played a while in the grass, twisting up into knots. Then they jumped to their feet, arching their backs at one another, after which each went on his own way.

The Siberian snow leopard makes unbelievable leaps, and I would never have accepted stories about them if I had not seen them myself. I have seen a snow leopard leap not less than 15 meters uphill over a ditch. Such jumps enable it readily to seize any prey it encounters. Old hunters told me that one winter while working in the forest after a slight snowfall they set out along a canyon without a gun. Passing among the rocks they heard the frightened bleating of a mountain goat and saw a small herd leaping down the rocks. A moment later an enormous ounce appeared at the

top of the rock and from there leapt down to grab the bleating goat. The Siberian ounce saw us, stopped, and fled "

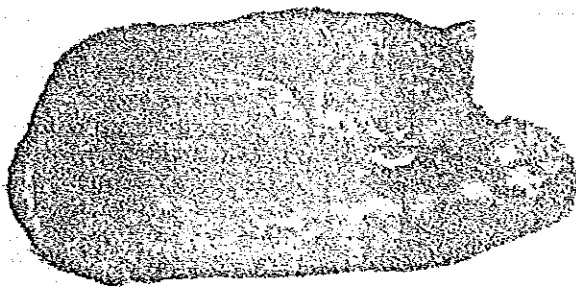


FIGURE 120. Siberian snow leopard  
Photograph by S. I. Ognev

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### Genus *Tigris* Frisch.

1775

1758. *Felis* Linnaeus Carolus, *Systema Naturae*, p. 41-43.  
 1775. *Tigris* Frisch, *Lodoc. Leop.*, *Das Natursyst. der vierfüßs. Thiere in Tabellen, darinnen alle Ordnung, Geschl. und Arien etc.*, Glogau, Tab. 131, Oken; Lorenz, v., *Lehrbuch der Naturgesch.*, Zoologie, III, Abt. 2, S. 1066-1070, 1816. Jena; Severtzow N., *Notice sur la classification multisér.*, des Carnivores, spec. des Felides, *Revue et Magasin de Zoologie pure et appliquée*, X, Paris, 1855, p. 386.  
 1894. *Tigrina* (subg.) Grevé Carl, *Die geographische Verbreitung der jetzt lebend. Raubthiere*, Halle, S. 48.  
 1898. *Uncia* Trouessart E.L. (ex Gray et Cope), *Catalogues Mammalium*, p. 351-352.  
 1917. *Panthera* Pocock R.I., *The Classification of existing Felidae*, *The Annals and Magaz. of Natural History*, vol. 20, Ser. 8, p. 332-333.

Very large, massive cat with general red-rust color and marked pattern of narrow black bands transversely across longitudinal axis of trunk.

Distinct pattern of transverse stripes on head. Tail covered with black rings. Body very long. Powerful limbs of moderate length. Ears short, distinctly rounded, without tufts at tips. Mane lacking but very rich cheek whiskers present below ears. Tail some one half of body length. Claws very strong, semilunar, markedly compressed laterally, sharp, and retractile. Pupil round.

Enormous skull relatively long, compressed in brain case region, expanded anteriorly, between canines. Frontal area with appreciable\* longitudinal depression medially. Orbits ovably elongated and set at oblique angle to frontal plane of skull. Lower anterior edge of orbit marked by moderate anterior thickening of edge. Bluntly rounded process extends internally from jugal bone, usually falling far short of lacrymal foramen. Entire lower edge of orbit formed by maxilla and jugal bone protrudes

\* Particularly marked in adults.