

The Sunda Pangolin

Desc:

The Sunda Pangolin is one of eight species of pangolins, or scaly anteaters, those distinctive tropical mammals covered in protective overlapping scales made of keratin. In common with all pangolins, the Sunda Pangolin has a long tail, long snout, and belly and inner side of the legs are unscaled. Like the other three Asian species, the Sunda Pangolin also has bristles between the scales.

Info:

the Sunda Pangolin has a longer head length (neck to snout) than Chinese and Philippine Pangolins, and the tail is longer and more slender than that of the Chinese Pangolin, frequently with 'white' scales, and is fully prehensile, unlike Chinese Pangolin. Unlike Philippine and Indian Pangolins, the head scales of Sunda Pangolin gradually increase in size behind the ears, and the scales behind the ears are slightly keeled. The lifespan of Sunda Pangolin is unknown. This species is distinguished from other Asian pangolins by a combination of morphological features.

Characteristics:

- Sunda Pangolins reach 122 cm in length, with a head and body length of 40 – 65 cm and a tail measuring 35 – 57 cm.
- The larger males weigh up to 10 kgs.
- They have 15-19 cross rows of dark brown scales on the back, fewer than Philippine Pangolin (*Manis culionensis*) (19 – 21) and more than Indian Pangolin (11 – 13), but a similar number to Chinese Pangolin (*M. pentadactyla*) (15-18).

Fun fact: it rolls into a ball for protection, like an armadillo, and its tough scales are made of the same material as human fingernails