

## = Bay duiker =

The bay duiker ( *Cephalophus dorsalis* ), also known as the black @-@ striped duiker and the black @-@ backed duiker , is a forest @-@ dwelling duiker native to western and southern Africa . It was first described by British zoologist John Edward Gray in 1846 . Two subspecies are identified . The bay duiker is reddish brown and has a moderate size . Both sexes reach 44 ? 49 centimetres ( 17 ? 19 in ) at the shoulder . The sexes do not vary considerably in their weights either ; the typical weight range for this duiker is 18 ? 23 kilograms ( 40 ? 51 lb ) . Both sexes possess a pair of spiky horns , measuring 5 ? 8 centimetres ( 2 @.@ 0 ? 3 @.@ 1 in ) . A notable feature of this duiker is the well @-@ pronounced solid stripe of black extending from the back of the head to the tail .

The bay duiker is a nocturnal animal . It tends to remain solitary , but pairs can also be observed . The leopard is the main predator of this duiker . The bay duiker mainly prefers fruits , but may also feed on animal matter such as bird eggs . Females may conceive by the age of eighteen months . Breeding occurs throughout the year . Gestation lasts for about 240 days , following which generally a single offspring is born . The lifespan of the bay duiker averages 17 to 18 years .

The bay duiker prefers old @-@ growth or primary forests . It has been historically overhunted across its range for bushmeat . The survival of the bay duiker is also threatened by human settlement and agricultural expansion due to this duiker 's preference for old @-@ growth forests , and habitat degradation . The bay duiker is , however , still a common duiker species , and is classified as Near Threatened by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources ( IUCN ) .

## = Taxonomy and etymology =

The scientific name of the bay duiker is *Cephalophus dorsalis* . The bay duiker is classified under the genus *Cephalophus* and the family Bovidae . It was first described by British zoologist John Edward Gray in 1846 . The generic name probably comes from the combination of the New Latin word *cephal* , meaning head , and the Greek word *lophos* , meaning crest . The specific name *dorsalis* is a Latin word referring to the back surface of an object . The common name " duiker " comes from the Afrikaans word *duik* , or Dutch *d?ken* ( both mean " diver " ) owing to the tendency of this antelope to seek cover in bushes . The bay duiker is also known as the black @-@ striped duiker and the black @-@ backed duiker .

A 2001 phylogenetic study divided *Cephalophus* into three distinct lineages : the giant duikers , east African red duikers and west African red duikers . The bay duiker was classified as a giant duiker along with the yellow @-@ backed duiker ( *C. silvicultor* ) , Abbott 's duiker ( *C. spadix* ) , and Jentink 's duiker ( *C. jentinki* ) . In 2012 , Anne R. Johnston ( of the University of Orleans ) and colleagues constructed a cladogram of the subfamily Cephalophinae ( duiker ) based on mitochondrial analysis . They showed that within the " giant duiker " group , the bay duiker formed a clade with Jentink 's duiker , and the zebra duiker is sister to this clade . Similarly , Abbott 's duiker and yellow @-@ backed duiker form a clade sister to *Sylvicapra* . The bay duiker and Jentink 's duiker probably evolved during the Pleistocene , less than 2 @.@ 5 million years ago .

Although it is possible that the species is monotypic , a 2003 paper identified two subspecies of the bay duiker :

*C. d. dorsalis* ( Gray , 1846 ) : Western bay duiker , found in western Africa

*C. d. castaneus* { Thomas , 1892 } : Eastern bay duiker , found in central Africa

## = Description =

The bay duiker is a moderately sized antelope ; the typical head @-@ and @-@ body length is 76 ? 103 centimetres ( 30 ? 41 in ) . Both sexes reach 44 ? 49 centimetres ( 17 ? 19 in ) at the shoulder . The sexes do not vary considerably in their weights either ; the typical weight range for this duiker is 18 ? 23 kilograms ( 40 ? 51 lb ) . Hence , sexual dimorphism in this species is not as remarkable as in other bovids , though females are often larger than males . The tail , black on the outside but

white in the inner parts , is 9 ? 11 centimetres ( 3 @. @ 5 ? 4 @. @ 3 in ) long . The tail of the eastern bay duiker terminates in a white tuft . Both sexes possess a pair of spiky horns , measuring 5 ? 8 centimetres ( 2 @. @ 0 ? 3 @. @ 1 in ) . Rowland Ward , however , recorded a maximum horn length of 12 @. @ 3 centimetres ( 4 @. @ 8 in ) from Yokadouma ( Cameroon ) . The horns of females are generally narrower .

Both sexes have a bright reddish brown coat . The ventral parts and the flanks are all reddish brown , and the legs dark brown . A notable feature of this duiker is the well @-@ pronounced solid stripe of black extending from the back of the head to the tail . This stripe is narrower in females . Due to its nocturnal nature , the bay duiker has large conspicuous eyes . Whiskers can be observed above the eyes and around the nostrils . The patches of white fur around the whiskers are in sharp contrast to the dark reddish face . Juveniles have a dark coat , that develops the stripes and chestnut to reddish brown colour gradually . The face is marked by a dark region from the nose to the forehead , separated from the rest of the face by two light brown furrows extending above or circling its eyes . Above the eyes and on the lips and chin white spots can be seen . The head has a diminutive crest ( a tuft of hair ) , and is dark brown . The eastern bay duiker is larger and heavier than the western bay duiker , with larger ears and darker colouration . The dorsal stripe is wider and lighter in colour in the eastern bay duiker .

The bay duiker is similar to several other duikers . The red duiker can not be readily distinguished from the bay duiker . Though Ogilby 's duiker resembles the bay duiker in size and pelage colour , the ventral side is paler and the dorsal stripe starts from the shoulders instead of the back of the head . Additionally , the body posture and horn characteristics of the two species differ to a large extent . The bay duiker as well as the Ogilby 's duiker are remarkably similar to the black duiker , except for the pelage colouration . The dorsal stripe of Peters 's duiker also begins at the shoulders but widens to cover the whole of the rump , as does the fainter stripe on the white @-@ bellied duiker . The bay duiker can be easily told apart from the black @-@ fronted duiker and Weyns 's duiker , that lack stripes .

#### = = Ecology and behaviour = =

The bay duiker is a nocturnal animal , and consequently little is known of its behavioural patterns . During the day , the bay duiker rests against trees or in thickets . It tends to remain solitary , but pairs can also be observed . The bay duiker exhibits remarkable alertness . It depends heavily on its sense of smell for foraging and detecting potential danger . Individuals communicate through preorbital gland secretions and excrement . The leopard is the main predator of this duiker . Eagles and mandrills may also prey on the bay duiker . An alarmed individual becomes motionless , and might leap to flee .

#### = = = Diet = = =

The bay duiker mainly prefers fruits . It feeds on the large fruits of Irvingia species ( wild mango ) , Detarium macrocarpum and the spherical fruits of Mammea africana . Other fruits the duiker may eat are those of Ricinodendron heudelotii and oil @-@ palms , the orange ones of Chrysophyllum beguei , the olive @-@ like ones of Pseudospondias longifolia , the green plums of Panda oleosa and those of Cola rostrata , that resemble cocoa pods . The bay duiker extracts the pulp from the seeds , making a grating sound . If the seeds are large , the duiker spits them out . Smaller seeds such as those of Antrocaryon species may be ingested . A 1989 study found that the soft seeds of plants such as Drypetes gossweileri , Staudtia gabonensis , Dacryoides buettneri , Ongokea gore , Santiria trimera , Annonidium mannii and Pentaclethra macrophylla are preferred . There have been reports of the bay duiker preying on birds ( without feeding on the legs and wings ) and the embryo of unhatched eggs , carrion , remains of African porcupines and kusimanses , termites , beetles and ants . Dog food may serve as supplement for captive individuals .

#### = = = Reproduction = = =

Females may conceive by the age of eighteen months . Breeding occurs throughout the year , and no clear peaks are known . A study in Gabon recorded birth peaks before or during maximum abundance of fruits . In central Africa , births peak in January and February . Oestrus lasts for just eighteen hours . The rutting male pursues a female in oestrus continuously . The male might be humming and may move its foreleg outward . If receptive , the female will allow the male to mount by shifting her tail to a side .

Gestation lasts for about 240 days , following which generally a single offspring is born . The infant weighs nearly 1 @, @ 600 ? 1 @, @ 690 grams ( 56 ? 60 oz ) , and its coat is dark reddish brown . The brighter reddish brown to chestnut colour develops by five to six months . For the first few weeks after its birth , the infant is kept concealed in dense vegetation when the mother is away . The offspring can start taking solid food within a few weeks . Weaning occurs at around three @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half months . The lifespan of the bay duiker averages 17 to 18 years .

#### = = Habitat and distribution = =

The bay duiker prefers old @-@ growth or primary forests . Home ranges of females are around 0 @. @ 2 ? 0 @. @ 4 square kilometres ( 0 @. @ 077 ? 0 @. @ 154 sq mi ) large , and those of males are twice the size of those of females . This duiker formerly occurred in the lowland forested areas ( warm , moist rainforests ) of Guinea . Nowadays , the bay duiker can be found in moist forested islands and riparian forests in the savannas of Guinea and northeastern Sudan . The bay duiker is native to several countries in western and southern Africa : Angola , Cameroon , Central African Republic , The Democratic Republic of the Congo , Côte d 'Ivoire , Equatorial Guinea , Gabon , Ghana , Guinea , Guinea @-@ Bissau , Liberia , Nigeria , Sierra Leone and Togo . It is feared to be extinct in Uganda .

#### = = Threats and conservation = =

The bay duiker has been historically overhunted across its range for bushmeat . A 2007 study of the extinction of the bay duiker in the Ipassa Makokou Biosphere Reserve ( Gabon ) held overhunting responsible for the elimination of the species from the reserve . The survival of the bay duiker is also threatened by human settlement and agricultural expansion due to this duiker 's preference for old @-@ growth forests , and habitat degradation .

The habitat of the bay duiker has depleted to a large extent due to deforestation . The bay duiker , unlike the other duiker species , is still found in significant numbers , and is classified as Near Threatened by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources ( IUCN ) . The Washington Convention ( CITES ) enlists the species in Appendix II . In 1999 , Rod East of the IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group estimated the total population at 725 @, @ 000 . The most significant population occurs only in the Taï National Park ( Côte d 'Ivoire ) . Protected areas where bay duikers occur include : Sapo National Park ( Liberia ) ; Kakum National Park ( Ghana ) ; Campo Ma 'an National Park , Dja Faunal Reserve and Lobéké National Park ( Cameroon ) ; Dzanga @-@ Sangha Special Reserve and Bangassou ( Central African Republic ) ; Monte Alén National Park ( Equatorial Guinea ) ; Lopé National Park and Minkébé National Park ( Gabon ) ; Odzala National Park and Nouabalé @-@ Ndoki National Park ( Congo @-@ Brazzaville ) ; Ituri Rainforest , Kahuzi @-@ Biéga , Maiko and Salonga National Parks ( Congo @-@ Kinshasa ) .