National Studbook of Grey Peacock Pheasant (Polyplectron bicalcaratum)





भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान Wildlife Institute of India



केन्द्रीय चिड़ियाघर प्राधिकरण Central Zoo Authority

Indian National Studbook of Grey Peacock Pheasant (Polyplectron bicalcaratum)

Studbook compiled and analysed by

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Supported by





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Authors

Contents

SI. No.	Topic	Page No.
1.	Grey peacock pheasant: Biology & Status	1
2.	Methods	8
3.	Status	8
4.	Location wise listing of live Grey peacock pheasant in Indian zoos	9
5.	Historical Listing of Grey peacock pheasant in Indian Zoos	11
6.	The way ahead	15
7.	Bibliography	16

Grey Peacock Pheasant: Biology and Status

Taxonomy

Kingdom:

Animalia

Phylum:

Chordata

Class: Order: Aves

Cruer.

Galliformes

Family:

Phasianidae

Scientific Name:

Polyplectron bicalcaratum

Species

Linnaeus 1758

Authority:

Common Name/s:

Munowwar, Deyodahuk, Deoderik (Assam); Deodurrug (Garo), Dao dip, Dao dai dip, Mejoor (Cachar);

Burruminrui (Nagaland); Katmōr (Chitagong).

Grey Peacock Pheasants are the most widely distributed of all peacock pheasants occurring over most of mainland south-east Asia. Grey Peacock Pheasants are traditionally classified as belonging to the sub-family phasianinae of the family phasianidae. The sub-family includes the most charismatic members of the order Galliformes, a diverse group of birds commonly referred to as game birds. The family Phasianidae is characterized by strong sexual dimorphism with the males being highly ornate with bright colours and adornments such as wattles and long tails and usually larger than females with longer tails. The family Phasianidae with a presence only in the old world i.e. Asia and Africa; includes two subfamilies: phasianinae and perdicinae.

Phyologeny of pheasants is still not completely understood more so for Peacock pheasants; and several phylogenies for the group have been proposed. Any phylogeny must however satisfy two different requirements:

- Arrive at an understanding of the affinities within the group to explain their evolutionary history and relationships.
- Provide a standard list of species to enable conservation biologists to be able to accurately identify the taxa being discussed.

Traditional taxonomy placed the grey peacock pheasant in the subfamily phasininae in the family phasianidae however recent molecular genetic evidence suggests that they are more closely related to peafowl and partridges than to other pheasants. More evidence is required before it can be reassigned with either the pheasants or as recent evidence suggests with peacocks or partridges.

The species is represented by four subspecies:

Polyplectron bicalcaratum bakeri (Lowe, 1925): Bhutan grey pheasant more widely known as Himalayan grey peacock pheasant. It is the palest and greyest form.

Polyplectron bicalcaratum bailyi (Rothschild, 1906): Hainan grey peacock pheasant. It is considered a separate species by Beebe (1918-1922). Dark grey coloured form with white markings.

Polyplectron bicalcaratum biclacaratum (Linnaeus, 1758): Burmese grey peacock pheasant. Dark brown and buff coloured specimens.

Polyplectron bicalcaratum ghigii (Delacour and Jabouille, 1924): Ghigi's grey peacock pheasant. Browner than *P.b. bicalcaratum* with buf coloured surrounds on the tail ocelli.

Placement of the Grey Peacock within Phasianidae

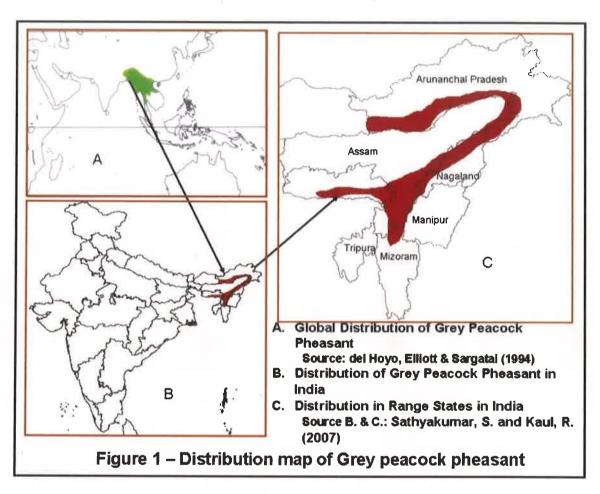
Traditional studies have placed the grey peacock with either the pheasants or the peafowl depending on the classification approach (Beebe 1990a,b; Delacour 1977; Johnsgard 1986). The peacock pheasants (genus Polyplectron) have always been classified as a pheasant because of their characteristics, but received the name peacock because of their eyed feathers and display (Bergmann 1980). The assignment of the grey peacock as a pheasant seems reasonable because of their behavior and appearance, but recent phylogenetic studies have placed them with the peafowl (Kimball et al. 1997, 1999; Kimball and Ligon 1999).

In the maximum likelihood tree (Figure 2), the grey peacock pairs as a sister taxa to the peafowl-partridge group. In the equally weighted maximum parsimony and constrained weighted parsimony trees (Figure 3), it groups with the two old-world partridges. Since the grey peacock is highly mobile, it cannot be ruled out as being a pheasant with any certainty, but it is becoming increasingly unlikely with the mounting evidence (Kimball et al. 1999; this study). It has been paired with both the partridges and the peafowl in this study, so a plausible alteration to the original question is that it may be a member of either group. Johnsgard (1986, 1988) hypothesized that many or all of the typical pheasant lineages evolved from a partridge-like ancestor, but there are no data to support this. However, this theory may explain why a pheasant-like bird is grouping basally with the partridges. To determine whether the grey peacock belongs with the partridges or peafowl, more data are necessary. More species of peacock pheasants must be sequenced, along with more species of peafowl and partridge.

Bush K. L., Strobeck C. (2003) Phylogenetic Relationships of the Phasianidae Reveals Possible Non-Pheasant Taxa Journal of Heredity 94(6):472–489

Distribution

In India the species has been recorded as commonly distributed in the central and eastern Himalayas from Sikkim through Arunachal Pradesh and northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.



The distribution of the various subspecies has been recognized as:

- P.b. bakeri: North east India (Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and parts of Assam, Manipur) Sylhet (Bangladesh) and Bhutan.
- P.b. bicalcaratum: South China, Myanmar and Bangladesh (Chitagong),
 Burma (Chin and Kachin hills) and central Laos. In India it is reported from north-east Assam.
- P.b. bailyii: Central and north eastern Vietnam and Central Laos.
- P.b. katsumatae: Island of Hainan in China.

Biology

The bird inhabits both evergreen and deciduous forests with thick undergrowth in the plains and foothills however its upper distribution is debated. They are fairly abundant in thick cover along banks of rivers. Even found in tangled scrub and secondary growth or mixed bamboo and thick scrub. Usually not seen near human land use forms like cultivations near forest and wooded tea gardens.

The male are identified by their larger size, sharp contrast between their dark grey with paler bars forward pointing bushy crest and the whitish throat and cheeks. The rest of the plumage is relatively uniform vermiculated and barred grey-brown with numerous mainly green with buff and white colour that surrounds the eye spots on the upperpart. The females are smaller and darker, especially the head. The eye spots are dark grey or blackish and are less conspicuous.

Males of P.b. bakeri have 210-240 mm wing length and 350-240mm tail length whereas wing length of females measure from 175-215 mm with tail 230-255 mm long. Males of P.b. bakeri weigh between 568 - 910 g and female weigh around 460-500 g. Male has brownish buff head and neck with a crest of hair-like feathers upstanding. Rest of the upper part is grayish brown with spots on back and bars on rump and whitish upper tail coverts. Violet green blue, white rimmed eye-spots (ocelli) are studded on the mantle, wing coverts and tail, under surface of which the spots appear black. The under part of throat and chin are whitish. Female is almost similar but is duller and have a shorter tail. The bare skin around eyes is yellowish somewhat flesh colour. Iris is white to grey and bill is creamy flesh colour. Its legs are dark grey in colour and are quite powerful, adapted for scratching. Ocelli on mantle are comparatively less brilliant and more whitish on throat. Chicks have a dark chestnut colour and they have two faint streaks running down their back. The sub-species are identified primarily on the basis of colouration, for ex. P.b bicalcaratum is generally more buffy-brown as compared to P.b. bakeri which is more grey and less buff.

These birds attain sexual maturity during the first year and breeding takes place between the months of March and June chiefly during April and May. The nest is in a shallow depression often at the foot of clump of a bamboo or in thick bushes. The nest is well hidden by dry leaves and surrounding thick vegetation. It is often located in the proximity of water. The clutch size is mostly reported to be two but instances of three or four eggs in *P.b. bakeri* have also been recorded. The eggs are cream coloured with an average size of 40 eggs being 46.5 X 35.9 mm. The incubation period is 21 days and it is performed by female alone. The chicks once they come out are fed by the mother by regurgitating the food, learning to pick food from ground only after first the few days. For protection the chicks move under the cover of their mother's tail wherever they go.

The birds mainly feed upon an omnivorous diet that include grains, berries, seeds, wild figs, insects, grubs, snails and other small animals. They especially seem to like termites and can also feed upon bamboo seeds and young shoots of green crops depending on their availability. These birds do not seem to have a specific roosting site and it is reported that the male perches on a branch to crow in the morning or late afternoon. They generally remain hidden in dense undergrowth and are extremely swift on their legs.

Behaviour

Foraging behaviour:

When feeding, the birds move very slowly, scratching for food in a methodical, secretive and restrained manner. Moving in the undergrowth, they slink under obstructions instead of hopping over them.

Social and mating behaviour:

The bird occurs in pairs and not in flocks, except when the chicks are young. These pairs that bond during mating may remain together throughout the year or separate during incubation itself. During breeding season each pair has their own

protected territories. Before mating the male displays beautifully. Both lateral and frontal displays occur. During the former the cock lowers its near wing while stretching the farther one and the tail, to the fullest extent, forming a fan behind which the head is partly hidden. By doing so it aims to dazzle the hen with its brilliant metallic ocelli. In a second posture it lowers its head and tail to the ground and tilts his body to vertical while spreading its tail and wings; thus forming a remarkable visual pattern of somewhat triangular or rounded brown feathered shield. The female remains disinterested during these performances but may respond with a similar posture but of a lesser degree and then the copulation takes place.

Calls: During the second posture the male also produces a melodious chirping whistle to attract the female. The male generally make a crowing call sounding like phee-hoo or guttural hoo which is loud but their calls have been reported to not carry very far. The call has been variously interpreted as a challenge call to attraction call and even musical or chuckling note. Another common call that sounds like ok-kok-kok is a series of croaking calls uttered in rapid succession. It has been interpreted as a chuckle as also an alarm call.

Threats

The major threat to the population of this bird is habitat loss mainly due to the practice of *jhum* cultivation followed in the north-eastern states of India. Subsistence hunting for food is another problem that threatens the species. The species is being put on sale across the world to be used in fly tye equipments (fly tyes are artificial flies / baits used for angling.), in addition to being bred as a gamebird.

Conservation Status

Despite the above threats the species is reported to be fairly abundant although populations are reported to be declining. In the Indian Wildlife Protection Act (IWPA) it has been listed as Schedule I, though the IUCN red list of threatened

species (2010) lists it as LC. CITES has listed it as an Appendix II species since 1975.

Methods

The data for the present studbook was collected through mailed questionnaires and the CZA website (cza.nic.in). The data collected has been summarized in the listing of living animals and historical listing.

Status in Captivity

Table 1 Status in captivity in Indian zoos

SI.	Zoo Name	Male	Female	Unsexed	Total
No. 1.	Kamala Nehru Zoological Park, Ahmedabad	0	0	2	2
2	Alipore Zoo, Kolkatta	8	13	1	22
3.	Padamaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling	2	3	3	8
4.	Veermata Jijabhai Bhonsle Udyan, Mumbai	1	0	0	1
-471	Total	11	16	6	33

Further demographic and genetic analysis of the data was not carried out as the data available from zoos has poor information on the pedigree records and dates of entry and exit of specimens.

SI.	Home Name and Tag No./Transponder No. /ID No./Ring No.	National Studbook No.	International Sex Studbook No.	Sex	Sire	Dam	Birth Date	Location	Event	Date	Remarks
	Unnamed13	00013		Unk	Unk	Cuk	24 June 1994	Ahmedabad	Birth	24 June 1994	
2	Unnamed14	00014		Unk	Unk	Unk	18 June 1995	Ahmedabad	Birth	18 June 1995	
	GPP8	00032		Ŧ	Unk.	Unk.	7 Apr 2002	Darjeeling	Birth	7 Apr 2002	
	Transponder No. CB/CZA/INDIA/07/1558										
4	GPP1	00034		Σ	Unk.	Unk.	10 May 2002	Darjeeling	Birth	10 May 2002	
	Transponder No. CB/CZA/INDIA/07/1551							1)			
5	Transponder No.	00035		ᄔ	Unk.	Unk.	10 May 2002	Darjeeling	Birth	10 May 2002	
	CB/CZA/INDIA/U//156U										
9	GPP2 Transponder No. CB/CZA/INDIA/07/1556	00036		Σ	공	2 X	10 May 2002	Darjeeling	Birth	10 May 2002	Age at entry approx. 2 vears.
	GPP4	00049		ш	S. F.	고 동	22 Feb 2007	Darieeling	Birth	22 Feb 2007	
	Transponder No. CB/CZA/INDIA/07/1553										
8	GPP10	00052		Unk	Unk.	Unk.	18 Apr 2008	Darjeeling	Birth	18 Apr 2008	
	Transponder No. 07/CB/CZA/INDIA/1569										
6	GPP 11	00053		Un Ye	Unk	Unk	29 May 2009	Darjeeling	Birth	29 May 2009	
10	GPP 13	00054		Unk	Unk	Unk	29 May 2009	Darjeeling	Birth	29 May 2009	
11	ID No. 2 Ring No. 15190	00017		ட	Unk	N Y	15 Feb 2001	Kolkata	Birth	15 Feb 2001	
12	ID No. 5 Ring No. 15140	00019		ட	N Y	n K	15 Mar 2001	Kolkata	Birth	15 Mar 2001	
13	ID No. 6 Ring No. 16066	00023		Щ	고 왕	참	26 Feb 2002	Kolkata	Birth	26 Feb 2002	
4	ID No. 12 Ring No. 15878	00024		Σ	농	Z Y Z	5 Mar 2002	Kolkata	Birth	5 Mar 2002	
15	ID No. 13 Ring No. 15879	00027		Σ	Unk.	Unk.	14 Mar 2002	Kolkata	Birth	14 Mar 2002	
16	ID No. 9	00028		ഥ	Unk.	C R K	14 Mar 2002	Kolkata	Birth	14 Mar 2002	

Home Name and Tag Na No./Transponder No.	National Studbook	International Sex Studbook	Sex	Sire	Dam	Birth Date	Location	Event	Date	Кетагкѕ
Ž	No.	No.	ш	- X	Link	14 Mar 2002	Kolkata	Birth	14 Mar 2002	
<u> </u>	8700			<u>:</u>	<u>:</u>			:		
ŏ	00000		Σ	Cak.	Unk.	27 Mar 2002	Kolkata	ATIN .	2/ Mar 2002	
_ 2	00024		Σ	Link	Unk	7 Apr 2002	Kolkata	Birth	7 Apr 2002	
5	1 500					<u>.</u>				
Ō	00033		Σ	Unk.	Unk.	27 Apr 2002	Kolkata	Birth	27 Apr 2002	
_	7000		2	- Jar	Ink	~.hulv 2003	Kolkata	Acquisition	20 Janu 2004	
Transponder No. CB/CZA/INDIA/07/1559	00037		2	<u>:</u>	5				- 1	
	00038		ഥ	Unk.	S F F	1 Feb 2003	Kolkata	Birth	1 Feb 2003	
10	00039		ш	Unk.	Unk.	20 Feb 2003	Kolkata	Birth	20 Feb 2003	
						1000	Vollecto	qtia	22 Eah 2005	
ID No. 20 Ring No. 571 C	00042		4	Cuk:	00038	22 Feb 2005	Nolkala	410	21 Mar 2005	
	00043		L	U.K	Cak K	31 Mar 2005	Kolkata	DI III	31 Mai 2003	
000	00044		Σ	C K	Unk.	31 Mar 2005	Kolkata	BILLIN	31 Mar 2005	
574 (00045		ш	Unk.	Unk.	31 Mar 2005	Kolkata	BIRT	31 Mar 2003	A 20 00 00 00 A
	00046		ഥ	Unk.	Unk.	~2006	Kolkata	E E	2002~	Age at enilly approx. 3
Transponder No. CR/C7A/INDIA/07/1554										years.
-	00047		ட	Unk.	Unk.	~2006	Kolkata	Birth	~2006	Age at entry
Transponder No.										years.
1	00048		Σ	Unk.	Unk.	2 Feb 2007	Kolkata	Birth	2 Feb 2007	Age at entry approx. 2
Transponder No.										years.
+	00000		ц.	Unk.	Unk.	19 Apr 2007	Kolkata	Birth	19 Apr 2007	Age at entry approx. 3
Transponder No.										
	00051		Unk.	. Unk.	Unk.	1 Apr 2008	Kolkata	Birth	1 Apr 2008	
Transponder No. 07/CB/CZA/INDIA/1572								-	7000	
-	47000		Σ	Unk	Urk	22 Jul 2004	Mumbai	Birth	72 JUI 2004	

S S.	SI. Home Name and No. Tag No. Transponder	National Studbook	National International Sex Studbook Studbook	Sex	Sire	Dam	SI. Home Name and National International Sex Sire Dam Birth Date Location No. Tag No. Transponder Studbook Studbook	Location	Event	Date	Remarks
_	Unnamed1	00001		Unk	Z Y Y	Unk	~ Dec 1971	Ahmedabad	Acquisition	29 July1972	Purchased from dealer.
7	Unnamed2	00002		Unk Unk	Unk	Z X	~ Feb 1984	Ahmedabad	Acquisition Death	17 Aug 1984 20 Apr 1993	Exchanged with dealer from Guwahati
က်	Unnamed3	00003		돌	Ž X	훔	~ Feb 1984	Ahmedabad	Acquisition Death	17 Aug 1984 30 Oct 1993	Exchanged with dealer from Guwahati
4	Unnamed4	00004		N. U.	S. S.	출	~ Oct 1984	Ahmedabad	Acquisition Death	4 Apr 1985 11 Jun 1994	Exchanged from Bhagalpur
ιΩ	Unnamed5	90000		ž S	S S	Cnk	~ Oct 1984	Ahmedabad	Acquisition Death	4 Apr 1985 12 Oct 1998	Exchanged from Bhagalpur
ဖ	Unnamed6	90000		S.	돌	고	16 Mar 1989	Ahmedabad	Birth Death	16 Mar 1989 13 Sept 1991	
7.	Unnamed7	70000		ш	S K	Unk	5 Mar 1990	Mumbai	Birth Death	5 Mar 1990 7 Jan 2003	Died due to respiratory disease
œ	Unnamed8	80000		Σ	Z X	참	5 Mar 1990	Mumbai	Birth Death	5 Mar 1990 6 Jul 2006	Died due to Septicemia. Old age factors.
ത	Unnamed9	60000		ш	S Y	공	25 Feb 1992	Mumbai	Birth Death	25 Feb 1992 31 Jan 1994	Died due to Enteritis
4	0,700	00000		ц	Unk	Z K	25 Feb 1992	Mumbai	Birth	25 Feb 1992	
5 = =		000011		, Z		z Z	~ Oct 1992		Acquisition Death	20 Apr 1993 20 Apr 1993	Exchanged from Baroda Zoo.
5		00012		L	Unk	S Y	25 Aug 1993 Mumbai	Mumbai	Birth	25 Aug 1993	
7 2	Unnamed13	00013		돌		ž Ž	24 June 1994	Ahmedabad	Birth	24 June 1994	4
4	Unnamed14	00014		고 동	S C	를 기	18 June 1995	Ahmedabad	Birth	18 June 1995	2
15	Unnamed15	00015		ш	출	岩	26 June 1999	Mumbai	Birth Death	26 June 199 12 Nov 1999	26 June 1999 Died due to 12 Nov 1999 infighting. Injury haemorrhage
19	L CN CI	00016		止	Urk	S.	4 Feb 2001	Kolkata	Birth	4 Feb 2001	

Home Name and	National Studbook	National International Sex Studbook Studbook	Sex	Sire	Dam	Birth Date	Location	Event	3000
Maria No		no.						Death	30 Apr 2000
No./ID No./King No. 15189	7.7000		Ш	S.	N N	15 Feb 2001	Kolkata	Birth	15 Feb 2001
0	1000					1000	Kolkata	Birth	25 Feb 2001
Ring No. 15190	00018		<u>LL</u>	S. K.	Z.	75 reb 2001		Death	1 Oct 2001
Ring No. 15191	000010		L	Unk	ž S	15 Mar 2001	Kolkata	Birth	13 Mai 2001
ID No. 5 Ring No. 15140	00000		ш	Z Y	- A	25 Mar 2001	Kolkata	Birth	25 Mar 2001 26 Mar 2004
200	2000					1000	Mimbai	Birth	19 Apr 2001
Ring No. 15192	00021		ц:	돌	돌	19 Apr 2001		Birth	2 Feb 2002
	00022		Ξ	ž	5			Death	16 Apr 2000
15876	00003		1	ž	도 논	26 Feb 2002	2 Kolkata	Birth	Z0 rep 2002
ID No. 6 Ring No. 16066	2200		-	1	12/2	5 Mar 2002	Kolkata	Birth	5 Mar 2002
ID No 12	00024		Σ	5	5_				0000
Ring No. 15878 ID No. 7	00025		<u>L</u>	S. C.	Supplied	5 Mar 2002	Kolkata	Birth Death	5 Mar 2002 16 th May 2004
King No. 1606/	0000			S. S.	Cnk.	c. 10 Mar 2002 Kolkata	2 Kolkata	Birth	10 Mar 2002 5 Jul 2005
0000	07000						ctodiod or	Birth	14 Mar 2002
Ring No. 16068	00027		Σ	U.K.	Z	c. 14 Mar 2002)Z Kolkala		
Ring No. 15879	00008		<u> </u>	고 공	Unk.	k. 14 Mar 2002	32 Kolkata	Birth	14 Mar 2002
ID No. 9 Ring No. 16069			ш	Z. Z.	U.K.	k. 14 Mar 2002	02 Kolkata	Birth	14 Mar 2002
ID No. 10 Ping No. 16070	00023		1			27 Mar 2002	no Kolkata	Birth	27 Mar 2002
ID No. 14	000030		Σ	Z Z	. OIR		_	ă,	7 Apr 2002
Ring No. 15880 ID No. 15	00031		Σ	Unk.	r. Unk.	ık. 7 Apr 2002	2 Kolkata		
Ring No. 15881 GPP8	00032		<u> L</u>	Unk		Unk. 7 Apr 2002	2 Darjeeling	Birth	/ Apr 2002
Transponder No. CB/CZA/INDIA/07/1558			-	701		11nk 27 Apr 2002	002 Kolkata	Birth	27 Apr 2002
ID No. 16	00033		•	<u>.</u>					

SI. No.	Home Name and Tag No./Transponder	National Studbook	National International Sex Studbook Studbook		Sire	Dam	Birth Date	Location	Event	Date	Kemarks
34		00034		Σ	Urk.	Unk.	10 May 2002 Darjeeling	Darjeeling	Birth	10 May 2002	
35		00035		Щ	Chk	S. F.	10 May 2002	Darjeeling	Birth	10 May 2002	
36	CB/CZA/INDIA/07/1560 GPP2 Transponder No.	92000		Σ	Unk.	Unk.	10 May 2002 Darjeeling	Darjeeling	Birth	10 May 2002	Age at entry approx. 2 years.
37	7/1556	00037		<u>ı. </u>	S. K.	C S.	1 Feb 2003	Kolkata	Birth	1 Feb 2003	
38	ID No. 18 Ring No. 18144	00038		Щ	Cnk.	S. S.	20 Feb 2003	Kolkata	Birth	20 Feb 2003	
39	ID No. 19	68000		<u>ц</u>	Unk.	Unk.	26 Mar 2003	Kolkata	Birth Death	26 Mar 2003 6 Nov 2007	
6	Transponder No.	00040		≊	Unk.	Ch.	~ July 2003	Darjeeling	Acquisition	20 Jan 2004	
7	Uppaged17	00041		Σ	Sh	놀	22 Jul 2004	Mumbai	Birth	22 Jul 2004	
42	ID No. 20 Ring No. 571	00042		ш	Unk.	ID No.17	22 Feb 2005		Birth	22 Feb 2005	
43	ID No. 21 Ring No. 572	00043		ш	Ch.	Z Y	31 Mar 2005	Kolkata	Birth	31 Mar 2005	
4	ID No. 22 Ring No. 573 00044	00044		Σ	Unk.	캶	31 Mar 2005 Kolkata	Kolkata	Birth	31 Mar 2005	
45	ID No. 23 Ring No. 574 00045	00045		<u>L</u>	Z F	Ch.	31 Mar 2005	Kolkata	Birth	31 Mar 2005	
94		00046		<u>L</u>	Ę.	Unk.	~2006	Darjeeling	Birth	~2006	Age at entry approx. 3 years.
47		00047		ш	C R	U.K.	~2006	Darjeeling	Birth	~2006	Age at entry approx. 3 years.
48	B GPP3 Transponder No.	000048		Σ	Unk.	Unk.	2 Feb 2007	Darjeeling	Birth	2 Feb 2007	Age at entry approx. 2 years.
0		00049		ഥ	Unk.	Unk.	22 Feb 2007	7 Darjeeling	Birth	22 Feb 2007	

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The way ahead

A review of literature suggests that the species adapts well to captivity and can be easily bred. Details of husbandry and care are provided in Singh and Singh 1995. However prior to initiation of the conservation breeding program it is suggested that a more detailed assessment of their status in the wild be carried out as the IUCN red list of threatened species 2010 lists it as a species of least concern with no clear information available on its population status in the wild. The taxonomic uncertainties about the species need to be conclusively addressed using molecular genetic techniques. Also a detailed parentage analysis of the specimens existing in captivity needs to be carried out rising molecular genetic techniques prior to carrying out further breeding.

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