

Marbled Cat

Why in News?

The elusive marbled cats have been spotted recently at Dehing Patkai National Park, Assam.

- It is a ***small wild cat*** native to the eastern Himalayas and Southeast Asia.
- **Scientific name** - *Pardofelis marmorata*.
- **Habitat** - Cleared areas or agricultural plantations, at lower elevations and deciduous-evergreen tropical forests.
- **Distribution** - Nepal, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Sumatra, and Borneo.
 - **In India** - Northern India, Sikkim & Assam.

Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary was declared as National Park on 15th June, 2021 and is the only sanctuary in India which is home to 7 different species of wild cats.

- **Morphology** - Short, broad face, rounded ears, long bushy tail, coat is thick & soft and its color can vary from dark gray-brown to yellowish gray to red-brown.
- It marked with large, irregular dark-edged blotches, legs and underparts are patterned with black spots.



- **Comparison** - To *small clouded leopards* both bear the distinctive marbling pattern on their coats, with the combination of large, irregular shaped dark blotches, lined with black.
- **Behaviour** - It is a *nocturnal* animal, mainly active at night.
- It is known as a *very good climbers and relatively solitary* in nature.
- **Diet** - Birds, squirrels, rats, and possibly lizards and frogs.

- **Threats**

- Deforestation.
- Habitat loss and fragmentation.
- Hunted for its fur, eating, commercial purposes, or medicine.

- **Conservation status**

- **IUCN status** – Near Threatened (NT).
- **CITES** – Appendix I.
- **WPA, 1972** – Schedule I.

References

1. [The Times of India| Marbled Cat](#)
2. [FCF| Marbled Cat](#)

