

MALAYAN PORCUPINE

Hystrix brachyura hodgsoni
Gray, 1847



CLASSIFICATION

Class: Mammalia
Order: Rodentia
Family: Hystricidae

2 other subspecies



NOT LISTED

VERY RARE



LEAST CONCERN

Identification : Adults can grow to 93 cm in length for a weight of 27 kg. Large porcupine with short tail. Small white crest. Coloration dark brown-black. Side quills are brown, back quills are dirty white with one or two black rings and long white tips.

Range: This subspecies occurs in in east Nepal and north India. Species also found from north India and east Nepal to China, south to Malaysia, Sumatra and Borneo.

Habitat : Grasslands, forests and open fields with soft soil.

Behavior: Mostly nocturnal, spending the day in a deep burrow. Solitary but also lives in family groups. Feeds on roots, tubers and bulbs, rarely on fallen fruits and bones.

Status in the wild: The species has a very large range. It is occasionally hunted and locally suffers from loss of habitat but these aren't long term threats at this time.

In captivity: The species is quite rare in captivity and absent outside Asia at this time. It was last kept in Europe in the mid 1980s and was bred in captivity as early as 1914. This subspecies is the rarest, only kept in Nepal and Myanmar, never kept elsewhere.