

Review of: "Long term monitoring of the reproductive behavior of wild Chinese pangolin (Manis pentadactyla)"

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The paper shows new information on the reproductive behaviour of the Chinese pangolin. The Chinese pangolin is highly endangered and field observation are rare due to its nocturnal activity, burrowing habits and cryptic behaviour.

The paper is based on the observation of one individual female, for 2 consecutive breeding periods that resulted in the birth of two pups. The observations provided are interesting and relevant giving the limited knowledge of the species, but provide limited data for further conclusions given the reduced sample size. Along the manuscript, the authors highlight the difficulties of observing pangolins in the wild, however it is also reported that many other individuals were observed (and tracked), the study area has a stable pangolin population, and the authors exhibited extensive knowledge on the burrowing systems, home range, and other individuals which I believe could have been used to increase the sample size. Authors suggest the occurrence of delayed implantation and post-partum estrus, observations to support the latter are highly speculative.

The abstract suggest the use of both radio tracking and camera trapping, however further information on the camera trapping methodology is reduced and lacks detail.

Overall, the description of all the aspects regarding the behavior of the tracked individual is highly detailed, but further conclusions regarding the species reproductive behavior are risky.

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